



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Alex Attwood
Mr Leslie Cree
Miss Megan Fearon
Mr Alex Maskey
Mr Stephen Moutray
Mr George Robinson
Mr Jimmy Spratt

Apologies: Mrs Brenda Hale
Ms Bronwyn McGahan

In Attendance: Ms Kathy O'Hanlon (Assembly Clerk)
Miss Karen Jardine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)
Miss Zuzana Polackova (Clerical Officer)

The meeting began in public session at 2.10pm.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised the Committee of recent staffing changes and, on behalf of the Committee offered congratulations to Keith McBride on his recent promotion.

Strategic Planning

The Committee considered a summary of its strategic planning session at the Ranfurly Arts and Visitor Centre in Dungannon held on Wednesday 3 September 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its strategic priorities and operations for 2014/15; and agreed to publish the strategic priorities on the Committee's webpages.

Collaboration NI

The Committee noted an invitation to a Collaboration NI event which would provide an overview of Supply Chains as a model of collaboration.

Assembly Community Connect: CO3 outreach

The Chairperson advised the Committee that he had been invited to attend a dinner with Chief Executives from the Third Sector on 7 October 2014 as part of the Assembly's ongoing engagement strategy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chair would attend on behalf of the Committee.

BBC Director General

The Committee noted an invitation to the Chair and Deputy Chair from the Chair of the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure to attend a briefing with the BBC's Director General, Lord Hall of Birkenhead on Wednesday 8 October.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chair and Deputy Chair would attend on behalf of the Committee.

Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2014

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of 2 July 2014 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

Play and Leisure Signature Programme

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department in response to concerns raised by Playboard NI regarding the Delivery Social Change signature programme for Play and Leisure.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the Department's response to Playboard NI for information.

PfG Commitments 16 & 26

The Committee noted a response from the Department to its request for further information on jobs creation within PfG Commitment 16, and the drawdown of competitive EU funds within PfG Commitment 26, following the briefing on 18 June.

Mr Moutray joined the meeting at 2.18pm.

Ministerial Briefing

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department in response to the Committee's request for further information following the Ministerial briefing on 25 June 2014, which advised that a second high level scoping exercise is being carried out with regard to victims outside the remit of the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry; and also provided information in relation to queries regarding foreign direct investment and the Community Relations in Schools-led Buddy Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request summary of the outcomes of the first scoping exercise with regard to the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry; the terms of reference for the second scoping exercise; and the timescale for its conclusion.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Education to request information on how it is taking forward its commitment within Together: Building a United Community to roll out a buddy scheme in all publicly funded nursery and primary schools.

Agreed: The Committee also agreed to invite Active Respectful Communities: Ardoyne and Shankill Together (ARC) Initiative to meet with the Chair and Deputy Chair to discuss the Community Relations in Schools-led Buddy Programme.

Central Good Relations Fund 2014/15

The Committee noted a response from the Department which provided an update in relation to the allocation of funds from the Good Relations Funding Programme 2014/15.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request further information on the amount of funding allocated to each of the groups listed in its correspondence.

Agreed: The Committee also agreed to ask Assembly Research to provide information regarding the projects currently funded by

the Community Relations Council and the District Council
Community Relations Programme.

Civil Contingencies Group NI

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing further information on the Civil Contingencies Group NI workstream to enhance local level contingencies.

Racial Equality Strategy

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing further information on the public meetings with regard to the consultation on the Racial Equality Strategy.

A Member requested clarification on the timings of the public meetings.

Provisional Outturn 2013/14

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing further information on the Financial Transactions Capital Loan provided to the University of Ulster.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a written briefing on the outcome of the June Monitoring round and the implications for the Department and its Arm's-Length Bodies.

List of Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

5. Correspondence

House of Lords European Committee

The Committee considered correspondence from the House of Lords European Committee regarding the proposal for regulation on promoting the free movement of citizens and businesses by simplifying the acceptance of certain public documents in the EU; and which requested more information on the Committee's view that the proposal would have significant resource implications.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Finance and Personnel to request comment on the query raised.

Committee for Education

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education which provided information on the terms of reference for its Inquiry into Shared/Integrated Education.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that any issues relating to shared/integrated education which may arise during its Inquiry into Building a United Community should be forwarded to the Committee for Education for its consideration; and to write to the Committee for Education to advise of this approach.

Inquiry: Building a United Community

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department requesting an opportunity to comment on the Committee's draft Inquiry report before it is finalised.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to advise that it welcomes any input to the Inquiry, and also to advise that once the report has been finalised the Department will have eight weeks to formally respond.

Barroso Taskforce Report

The Committee noted a late submission from Jane Morrice to its Inquiry into the Barroso Taskforce.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to add the submission to its webpages with the other relevant Inquiry papers.

The Committee also noted the following items of correspondence:

Publication of the Annual Report for the Commissioner for Public Appointments 2013/14

A call for evidence from the Assembly and Executive Review Committee on its Review of Women in Politics and the Northern Ireland Assembly

Assembly Ombudsman and Commissioner for Complaints Resource Accounts 2013/14

A summary of the Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) Meeting of 19 March 2014

A summary of the Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) Meeting of 16 June 2014

A copy of correspondence from the Department to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding the Green Investment Bank event

A copy of correspondence from the Department to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding the Strasbourg Declaration

OFMDFM Corporate Social Responsibility Framework Document

A copy of the Maze/Long Kesh Development Corporation Equality Impact Assessment Screening Summary for April - June 2014

OFMDFM Investing Activity Reports for July 2014 and August 2014

Notification from the Department of the commencement of the recruitment process for the Commissioner for Victims and Survivors

An update on the Big Lottery Fund Reaching Out: Supporting Families programme

The Delivering Social Change Stakeholder update July/August 2014

6. Legislative Consent Motion - Childcare Payments Bill

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer consideration of its draft report on the Legislative Consent Motion regarding the Childcare Payments Bill until the meeting of 17 September; and agreed to invite the relevant officials to attend the meeting on 17 September to answer questions Members may have on the detail of the Legislative Consent Motion.

7. Delivering Social Change - Children and Young People

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.34pm.

Departmental officials Ms Margaret Rose McNaughton, Mrs Janet Smyth and Mr Dave Rodgers briefed the Committee on the summary and analysis of responses to the consultation on Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People.

Questions and discussion followed and the briefing was recorded by Hansard.

The Department agreed to provide further information on a number of issues.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask Assembly Research to provide information on the Child Poverty Strategies for England and Scotland, including information on projected levels of absolute and relative poverty by 2020, for the meeting on 1 October.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.07pm.

8. Victims and Survivors Service - Written Briefing

The Committee noted a written briefing from the Victims and Survivors Service (VSS) which provided an update on progress of the implementation of the Commissioner for Victims and Survivors Review Recommendations a short synopsis of the current financial situation.

Ms Fearon left the meeting at 3.12pm.

Ms Fearon returned to the meeting at 3.15pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request information on the location of all victims and survivors groups;

the funding received by those groups; and the length of time those groups have been in operation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the interim Chief Executive and the interim Chair of VSS to brief the Committee on Wednesday 8 October.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the relevant Departmental officials to brief the Committee on Wednesday 8 October.

9. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to meet at 1.45pm on Wednesday 17 September to receive financial scrutiny training.

10. Any Other Business

Mr George Robinson gave his apologies for the meeting on 17 September 2014.

11. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 1.45pm on Wednesday 17 September 2014, in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.36pm.

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