

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2014
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs
Mr Trevor Clarke
Mr Alex Easton
Mr Paul Girvan
Mr Ross Hussey
Mr Sean Rogers

In Attendance: Ms Lucia Wilson (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jack Peel (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Danielle Saunders (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Darren Weir (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
Mr Phil Flanagan

2.13pm The meeting began in public session

2.15pm Mr Beggs joined the meeting

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from the Chairperson and from Mr Flanagan

2. Minutes of the meeting on 22 October 2014

Agreed: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Correspondence

Correspondence received from Geoff McLaughlin re HRPTS payroll

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and to forward it to the Health Committee for their consideration.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Mr McLaughlin informing him of this action.

2.17pm *Mr Clarke joined the meeting*

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising to report.

2.18pm *The meeting went into closed session*

5. Inquiry into DSD Advanced Land Purchases

Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold a formal enquiry into Advanced Land Purchases along the lines set out in the briefing paper and to factor this into the Forward Work Programme for 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note correspondence from Mr Dermot Nesbitt.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson would meet with Mrs Kerry Greig, Head of the Beverley Residents Association.

6. Inquiry into Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service Trust Statement 2012/13 – Consideration of Issues Paper

The Committee received briefing from the C&AG and Richard Emerson on the inquiry's issues paper.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Justice to clarify figures given during the evidence session on 22 October in relation to the value of warrants collected.

Agreed: The Committee noted the issues paper and agreed that the report on the inquiry be drafted on this basis.

7. Inquiry into the Future Impact of Borrowing and Private Finance Commitments and Belfast Metropolitan College's Titanic Quarter PPP Project – Consideration of Draft Report

Agreed: The Committee considered its draft report on the above inquiry

Part 1: The Future Impact of Borrowing and Private Finance Commitments

Introduction

Paragraphs 1-5 read and agreed

Paragraphs 6-8 read and agreed

Paragraph 9 read, amended and agreed

Recommendation 1 read and agreed

Paragraphs 11-12 read and agreed

2.35pm *Mr Easton left the meeting*

Paragraphs 13-15 read, amended and agreed

Recommendations 2-3 read and agreed

Part 2: Belfast Metropolitan College's Titanic Quarter PPP project

Paragraph 16 read, amended and agreed

Paragraph 17 read, amended and agreed

Paragraphs 18-22 read and agreed

2.48pm *Mr Clarke left the meeting*

2.50pm *Mr Easton re-joined the meeting*

Paragraphs 23-27 read and agreed

Paragraph 28 read, amended and agreed

Paragraphs 29-30 read and agreed

Recommendations 4 and 5 read and agreed

2.55pm *Mr Rogers left the meeting*

2.58pm *Mr Hussey left the meeting*

The Committee lost its decision-making quorum. In the absence of a decision-making quorum proceedings continued in line with Standing Order 49(5).

3.02pm *Mr Girvan left the meeting*

The Committee lost its quorum. In the absence of a quorum the Chairperson suspended the meeting in line with Standing Order 46(6).

3.04pm *Mr Clarke and Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting*

The meeting regained quorum and the Chairperson resumed the meeting in line with Standing Order 46(6).

Paragraphs 31-35 read, amended and agreed

3.06pm *Mr Hussey re-joined the meeting*

3.11pm *Mr Rogers re-joined the meeting*

Recommendation 6 agreed

Paragraphs 36-37 read, amended and agreed

Paragraph 38 read and agreed

Recommendation 7 read and agreed

Paragraphs 39-41 read and agreed

Recommendation 8 read and agreed

Recommendation 9 read, amended and agreed

Executive Summary

Paragraphs 1-21 read and agreed

Summary of Recommendations

Recommendations 1-8 read and agreed

Recommendation 9 read, amended and agreed

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes, minutes of evidence and correspondence to be included as appendices to the report.

Agreed: The Committee ordered the report to be printed

Agreed: The Committee agreed the report to be launched on Wednesday 3rd December and a press release be issued on Wednesday 26th November

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting

Members were advised that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 12 November 2014 at 2.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

3.26pm *The meeting was adjourned*

Ms Michaela Boyle
Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee