



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2014
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present:

Mr Trevor Clarke MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Sean Lynch MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Joe Byrne MLA
Mr John Dallat MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mrs Brenda Hale MLA
Mr Ross Hussey MLA
Mr Cathal Ó hOisín MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr David McNarry MLA

In attendance:

Mr Paul Carlisle (Clerk to the Committee)
Mr Gavin Ervine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Tara McClafferty (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Barry McLernon (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

Mr Declan McAleer MLA

10:27am *The meeting commenced in open session*

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson expressed his thanks and appreciation to the former Chairperson, Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA, for all his hard work and dedication to the Committee. Members from all Parties joined the Chairperson in passing on their thanks to Mr Spratt.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA to formally thank him for his leadership and hard work on the Committee.

The Chairperson passed on the Committee's best wishes to those involved in the accident involving an Ulsterbus near Omagh on Monday 22nd September 2014. The Chairperson also praised the emergency services for their rapid response and other road users who assisted during the incident.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask to be kept informed of any outcomes following an investigation into the accident.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting of 17th September 2014.

10:34am *Mr McCarthy joined the meeting*

4. Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence received.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly All Party Group on Construction regarding the Infrastructure Investment Strategy (ISNI) Portal and agreed to forward to the Department requesting that the DRD section of the portal is maintained and updated in a timely manner.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Education Committee regarding a STEM Sentinus Drop-in Event on Wednesday 1st October 2014.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the OFMdfM Committee regarding Investment Strategy Implementation Report to June 2014.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from OFMdfM Committee regarding Programme for Government Progress Reports.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Minister Danny Kennedy regarding the Off-Street Parking (Functions of District Councils) Bill and agreed, in principle, to the Minister's request for a 30 day Committee stage.

The Committee also agreed to write to the Department to request a briefing on the Bill at the meeting on 8th October 2014.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding Belfast Rapid Transit Public Information Events.

10:41am *Mr Easton left the meeting*

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding a meeting with QPANI.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding a meeting with Road Safety Markings Association.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development to Mr Bruce Harper regarding the monetary benefits of cycling.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development to Mr S Mawhinney regarding a flooding issue.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding traffic difficulties in Clady, Dungiven and Hillsborough.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development to JA McClelland & Sons regarding acquisition of wayleaves for pipelines.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding appointment of members to Warrenpoint Harbour Authority.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding appointment of members to Londonderry Port and Harbour Authority.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding DRD Resource Accounts.

Agreed: The Committee noted a copy of EU Matters – September 2014.

5. Department for Regional Development Briefing: October Monitoring

10:43am *The following officials joined the meeting*

Deborah McNeilly – Director of Finance, DRD

Stewart Barnes – Head of Financial Planning and Management Branch, DRD

The officials presented to the Committee in respect of the work of the above. Following the presentation, Members put questions.

10:53am *Mr Byrne left the meeting*

10:55am *Mrs Hale left the meeting*

10:55am *Mr Easton re-joined the meeting*

11:10am *Mr Hussey left the meeting*

11:11am *Mrs Hale re-joined the meeting*

11:22am *Mr Hussey re-joined the meeting*

11:27am *Mr Hussey left the meeting*

11:29am *Mr Lynch left the meeting*

11:29am *Mr McNarry left the meeting*

11:36am *Mr Lynch re-joined the meeting*

11:38am *Mr McNarry re-joined the meeting*

11:38am *Mr Ó hOisín left the meeting*

11:39am *The officials left the meeting*

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request further information on the options discussed by the Department before coming to the decision to stop issuing new work instructions to contractors.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request further information on how much has been paid in public liability claims in the last 12 months.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request further information on how long the contractors affected by the cuts have carried out work for the Department.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a detailed list of roads and street lighting that will be affected by the cuts.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request further information on stock levels and resources involved in street lighting maintenance.

6. Department for Regional Development Briefing: Draft Bicycle Strategy

11:40am The following officials joined the meeting

Andrew Grieve – Head of Cycling Unit, DRD
Orla Campbell – Cycling Unit, DRD

The officials presented to the Committee in respect of the work of the above. Following the presentation, Members put questions.

12:01pm Mr Easton left the meeting

12:16pm The officials left the meeting

7. Subordinate Legislation not Subject to Assembly Procedure

Members noted:

- The Parking Places (Disabled Persons Vehicles) (Amendment No.5) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014
- The Prohibition of Traffic (Giant's Causeway Road) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014
- The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Banbridge) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014

8. Any Other Business

9. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 1st October 2014 at 09:30am in Corrs Corner, Newtownabbey.

12:18pm The meeting was adjourned

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Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development
01/10/14