



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2012
ROOM 21**

Present:

Mr John Dallat MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mr Ross Hussey MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr David McNarry MLA
Mr Cathal Ó hOisín MLA

In attendance:

Mr Paul Carlisle (Clerk to the Committee)
Mr Nathan McVeigh (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Tara McKee (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Alison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Séan Lynch MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mr Ian McCrea MLA

Agreed: As the Chairperson and deputy Chairperson were not present Mr McNarry proposed that Mr Cathal Ó hOisín took the chair. This was seconded by Mr Dallat.

11.05am The meeting commenced in open session

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

NONE

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting of 10th October 2012 subject to a minor amendment.

Agreed: A Member asked if evidence to a Committee Inquiry could be given "in camera" with the identities of potential witnesses protected. The Clerk agreed to investigate the matter and report back to Members at the next meeting.

4. Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence received.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Justice regarding Community Safety Strategy.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from DRD regarding Contract Staff Car Park Attendants Released as Part of Efficiency Savings and agreed to write to the Department expressing the Committee disappointment with the response as there seems to be no effort made to find alternative employment for the car park attendants that will lose their jobs.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from DRD regarding Rathlin Island Ferry Services.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee Office regarding Hansard Reports for Briefing Sessions on 3rd October 2012.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from fonaCAB & Value Cabs regarding Public Consultation on Taxis in Bus Lanes and agreed to forward to DRD for consideration.

Agreed: The Committee noted a research paper regarding rail investment in the UK and Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the DRD regarding queries arising from the Committee visit to Rathlin Island.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Clerk to the Education Committee regarding Home to School Transport and agreed to forward to the Department for comment.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from three local councils regarding funding for ShopMobility schemes.

5. Committee Transport Inquiry Briefing

11.12am The following representative joined the meeting:

Brian Mahon

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

11.23am Mr McAleer joined the meeting

11.41am Mrs Kelly joined the meeting

11.51am The representative left the meeting

6. Utility Regulator Briefing

11.52am The following representatives joined the meeting:

Jo Aston
Shane Lynch

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

12.20pm Mr McNarry left the meeting

12.25pm Mr McNarry rejoined the meeting

12.27pm Mr Easton left the meeting

12.30pm Mr Easton rejoined the meeting

12.31pm Mr Dallat left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask Research for a paper comparing other UK regulatory bodies to the Northern Irish Utility Regulator

12.38pm *The representatives left the meeting*

12.40pm *Mr McNarry left the meeting*

7. Any Other Business

Agreed: The Clerk provided an overview of the Committee End of Session report and members agreed the report subject to a minor amendment. Mr McNarry expressed his concerns around the amount of money spent on visits.

12.44pm *Mr McAleer left the meeting*

10. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 7th November 2012 at 10.30am in Room 21.

12.46pm *The meeting was adjourned*

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Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development
7/11/12