



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 26TH MARCH 2014
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present:

Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Sean Lynch MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr David McNarry MLA
Mr Cathal Ó hOisín MLA

In attendance:

Mr Paul Carlisle (Clerk to the Committee)
Mr Gavin Ervine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Tara McClafferty (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Alison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

Mr Joe Byrne MLA
Mrs Brenda Hale MLA
Mr Ross Hussey MLA

10:07am The meeting commenced in open session

1. Apologies

As above.

10:08am Mr McAleer joined the meeting

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed Members of the appointment of an Interim Translink Chief Executive.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a Departmental briefing regarding the appointment process for the Interim Translink Chief Executive.

10:13am *Mr McNarry joined the meeting*

The Chairperson gave Members an overview of the meeting he and the Deputy Chairperson held with NI Water, which took place before today's meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to issue a press release regarding non-domestic water charges.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting of 19th March 2014.

10:16am *Mr Lynch left the meeting*

4. Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence received.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development regarding Camlough Reservoir.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development to the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the Inquiry into Flexible Working in the Public Sector in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on Rights of Bus Passengers in Bus and Coach Transport and agreed to call the Department to provide an oral briefing on possible infraction proceedings.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on the impact of the UK HGV Road User Levy on ROI haulier companies and agreed to redirect the queries to the Department of the Environment.

- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development to Mrs Mary Bell regarding Belfast on the Move.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding a presentation on the A5 Scheme.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Post Project Evaluations.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development to Guide Dogs NI regarding kerb heights in Lisburn city centre.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding the appointment of an Interim Translink Chief Executive.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on road closures and diversions.

5. Department for Regional Development Briefing: Social and Environmental Guidance for Water and Sewerage Services (2015 – 2021)

10:19am The following officials joined the meeting

Robert Crawford – Director of Water Policy & Shareholder Unit, DRD
Stuart Wightman – Head of Environmental Branch, DRD

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

10:45am Mr Lynch re-joined the meeting

10:45am Mr McAleer left the meeting

10:51am Mr Ó hOisín left the meeting

10:54am Mr McAleer re-joined the meeting

11:01am Mr Ó hOisín re-joined the meeting

11:06am Mr McCarthy left the meeting

11:11am Mr McCarthy re-joined the meeting

11:11am *The officials left the meeting*

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask for further information on NI Water's work in relation to decreasing the level of pesticides being used by farmers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask for further information regarding the Sustainable Economic Level of Leakage.

6. Inquiry into the Benefits of Cycling to the Economy

The Chairperson highlighted the written submissions received in relation to the Inquiry. The Committee also discussed the Forward Work Programme in relation to the Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed a list of organisations to invite to provide oral evidence.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to undertake an external evidence session in the Ballyclare area.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to undertake a study visit to County Mayo as part of the Inquiry into the Benefits of Cycling to the Economy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to undertake a study visit to Dublin, Amsterdam and Copenhagen as part of the Inquiry into the Benefits of Cycling to the Economy.

7. Any Other Business

Mr McCarthy raised the issue of a Belfast Telegraph article which provided an analysis of Private Finance Initiative Schemes.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask for further information on those PFI Schemes which are relevant to DRD.

8. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 2nd April 2014 at 10:00am in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

11:28am *The meeting was adjourned*

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Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development
02/04/14