



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2015
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present:

Mr Trevor Clarke MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Joe Byrne MLA
Mr John Dallat MLA
Mr Ross Hussey MLA
Mr Chris Lyttle MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr David McNarry MLA
Mr Stephen Moutray MLA
Mr Cathal Ó hOisín MLA

In attendance:

Mr Paul Carlisle (Clerk to the Committee)
Mr Gavin Ervine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Christine Dodson (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Barry McLernon (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

Mr Sean Lynch MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Alex Easton MLA

10:06am The meeting commenced in open session

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson gave Members an overview of the meeting he held with the Minister and

Translink Chief Executive which took place on Tuesday 16th December 2014.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting of 10th December 2014.

4. Correspondence

10:13am *Mr Moutray joined the meeting*

Members noted the correspondence received.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Minister Danny Kennedy regarding industrial action by NI Water staff and agreed to write to the Department to get ask for an update on this issue and for details of call out rates for private contractors. The Chairperson also recorded his appreciation at being kept apprised of the situation by NI Water Chief Executive.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Minister Danny Kennedy regarding a Consumer Rights Bill.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding the appointment to Chair of NI Water.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding faulty street lighting and agreed to forward a copy to Mervyn Storey's constituency office.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on the Off-Street Parking Bill and agreed to include in Committee Report.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding FOI Exemption on Draft Budget 2015/16 information.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on the Rail Track Inquiry and agreed to include in Inquiry Folder.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on Belfast Public Hire Taxis briefing.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on Draft Budget 2015/16 and agreed to write to the Department to ask if there are any major changes in light of the Stormont House Agreement.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development to the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development regarding Camlough Reservoir incident report.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Into the West regarding their submission to the Rail Track Inquiry and agreed to include in Inquiry Folder. The Committee also agreed to invite this group to take part in a forthcoming stakeholder event.

Agreed: The Committee noted Correspondence relating to the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland – Investing Activity Report for November 2014.

Agreed: The Committee noted from the Consumer Council regarding Translink fare increases and agreed to write to the Consumer Council to ask for an update on the meeting with the Minister.

5. Department for Regional Development Briefing: Preliminary Outcome of the Draft Bicycle Strategy Public Consultation

10:16am 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.

10:16am Mr Lyttle joined the meeting

10:31am Mr Lyttle left the meeting

10:34am Mr Lyttle re-joined the meeting

10:46am Mr McAleer left the meeting

10:51am Mr McAleer re-joined the meeting

10:58am Mr Moutray left the meeting

10:58am Mr Ó hOisín left the meeting

11:04am Mr Ó hOisín re-joined the meeting

11:11am Mr Hussey left the meeting

11:27am Mr Hussey re-joined the meeting

11:35am The officials left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write the Department to ask what recommendations set out in the Sustrans response are likely to be incorporated into the Strategy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask for a list of local councils that responded to the consultation.

6. Department for Regional Development Briefing: Update on Unadopted Roads

11:36am The following officials joined the meeting

Graeme Beckett – Transport NI, DRD
Francis Miskelly – Transport NI, DRD

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

11:36am Mr McNarry left the meeting

11:46am Mr McNarry re-joined the meeting

11:48am Mr Lyttle left the meeting

11:53am Mr Moutray re-joined the meeting

11:56am Mr Hussey left the meeting

12:11pm Mr Ó hOisín left the meeting

12:16pm Mr Byrne left the meeting

12:17pm The officials left the meeting

7. Subordinate Legislation not Subject to Assembly Procedure

Members noted:

- The Proposed Urban Clearways (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

8. SL1: The Level Crossing (Cullybackey South) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: That the Committee for Regional Development is content with the merits of the policy proposal.

9. Any Other Business

The Chairperson informed Members that the Committee will hold a stakeholder event and oral evidence session on 27th/28th January 2015 as part of its Inquiry into the Coleraine to Londonderry Rail Track Phase Two Project.

The Chairperson informed Members that the Committee is now on Twitter and encouraged Members to have a look at this.

Mr McAleer raised the issue of the fatal road accident which happened on the Malone Road in October 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to support the calls for the re-instatement of the crash barrier at the site of the accident.

10. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 14th January 2015 at 9:30am in Ballycraigy Primary School, Antrim

12:21pm The meeting was adjourned

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Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development
14/01/15