



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 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
Mr Ross Hussey MLA
Mr Chris Lyttle MLA
Mr Declan McAleer 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:

10:04am The meeting commenced in open session

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Chairperson's Business

10:05am Mr Hussey joined the meeting

10:05am Mr McAleer joined the meeting

10:05am Mr Lyttle joined the meeting

10:13am Mr Moutray joined the meeting

The Chairperson updated Members in relation to the Minister's statement on Phase 2 of the Coleraine to Londonderry railway, which took place on Monday 3rd November 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request that the Minister and senior Translink officials brief the Committee on this issue at the meeting on 12th November 2014; or the first available date in the Minister's diary.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to undertake an inquiry into this matter, with draft Terms of Reference made available to Members at the meeting on 12th November 2014.

The Chairperson gave Members an overview of the meeting he held with representatives of Unite the Union which took place on Tuesday 4th November 2014.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting of 22nd October 2014.

4. Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence received.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Minister Danny Kennedy regarding an Urgent Oral Statement on Coleraine to Londonderry Rail Track on Monday 3 November 2014.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding the Northern Ireland Economic Strategy – Year 2 Annual Monitoring Report.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning regarding Inquiry into Post Special Educational Need Provision in Education, Employment and Training for those with Learning Disabilities and agreed to write to Department to request that the relevant official is made available to attend the round table discussion on transport.

- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on Integrated Transport Pilot Project.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted holding correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on Strategic Drainage Infrastructure and the Risk of Infraction.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on PC15 Draft Determination.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on enforcement of moving traffic offences.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted key issues discussed at the Chairperson's Liaison Group which included problems with acoustics in Room 21.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from Mr Tony Depledge thanking the Chairperson for attending GB Bus Managers Conference.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence relating to the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland – Investing Activity Report for October 2014.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted a copy of an agenda for Collaboration NI event on 27 November 2014.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted a copy of the Ministerial Statement on Phase 2 of the Coleraine to Londonderry Railway.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding presentations from the Changing Gear Bicycle Seminar.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on Strategic Drainage Infrastructure.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Audio Visual Information Systems on Metro Buses.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Londonderry Harbour (Variation of Limits) Order (Northern Ireland).

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from NI Assembly Business Trust thanking the Chairperson for attending the Belfast Rapid Transit briefing.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Central Committee Office informing the Committee that Members' Attendance figures will be published on Assembly website on 7th November 2014.

5. Off-Street Parking (Functions of District Councils) Bill

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

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

10:36am Mr McAleer left the meeting

6. Department for Regional Development Briefing: Provision of Water Policy Papers

10:37am The following official joined the meeting

John McGrath – Deputy Secretary, Finance, Resources and Water Policy, DRD

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

10:41am Mr McAleer re-joined the meeting

10:56am Mr Ó hOisín left the meeting

10:58am The official left the meeting

7. Department for Regional Development Briefing: Outcome of Water Bill Consultation

10:59am The following officials joined the meeting

John McGrath – Deputy Secretary, Finance, Resources and Water Policy, DRD

Louise Green – Water Policy and Shareholder Unit, DRD

Eilis Ferguson – Water Policy and Shareholder Unit, DRD

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

11:01am Mr Easton joined the meeting

11:05am Mr Ó hOisín re-joined the meeting

11:10am Mr McAleer left the meeting

11:15am Mr McAleer re-joined the meeting

11:37am Mr Lynch left the meeting

11:48am Mr Lynch re-joined the meeting

11:56am Mr Moutray left the meeting

11:57am The officials left the meeting

8. Department for Regional Development Briefing: Blue Badge Scheme Eligibility

11:58am The following officials joined the meeting

David Millar – Transport NI, DRD

David Scott – Head of Blue Badge Unit, Enniskillen, DRD

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

Mr Hussey declared an interest as a Blue Badge holder.

11:59am Mr Lynch left the meeting

12:13pm Mr Hussey left the meeting

12:14pm The officials left the meeting

9. EU Matters

Members noted EU Matter October 2014 Update and a Northern Ireland Assembly Research Paper on EU Funding Opportunities 2014-2020.

10. Subordinate Legislation not Subject to Assembly Procedure

Members noted:

- The Compulsory Right or Left-hand Turn (Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014

11. Any Other Business

12. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 12th November 2014 at 10:00am in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

12:17pm The meeting was adjourned

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Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development
12/11/14