



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2015
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 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:

10:10am The meeting commenced in open session

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed Members that the Chair of NI Water has been scheduled to brief the Committee at its meeting 25 February 2015.

The Chairperson and Members placed on record their thanks to everyone who engaged with the Committee at last week's events in relation to the Inquiry into the Coleraine to Londonderry Rail Track Phase Two Project.

3. Draft Minutes

10:16am *Mr McAleer joined the meeting*

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting of 28th January 2015.

4. Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence received.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding objections to 20mph speed limit pilot schemes and Members agreed to request copies of objections to the three schemes in Belfast City Centre, Merville Garden Village and Ballymena.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding NI Water emergency planning.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding severe weather in West Tyrone and North West.

Agreed: The Committee noted a copy of a Departmental response to Mr Alex McCullagh regarding Translink fares.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding a road traffic fatality on Malone Road, Belfast and Members agreed to write to the Department to request a briefing on the policy of replacement of safety barriers at its meeting on 18th February 2015. Members also agreed to request a copy of the works order for repairs carried out at the scene of the fatal traffic accident.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding a report and recommendations into the Blue Badge Scheme.

- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Consumer Council regarding the Consumer Outlook Index.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Association of Town & City Management regarding invite to Town Centres Event on 12th February 2015 and Members agreed to inform Committee staff if they wish to attend.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the OFMdFM Committee regarding European Priorities 2015 and agreed to forward to the Department for comment.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding invite to Belfast Rapid Transit information events and Members agreed to inform Committee staff if they wish to attend.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding salt boxes in North Belfast.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Loughs Agency regarding the Committee's rail track inquiry and Members agreed to include this in the inquiry folder.

5. Department for Regional Development Briefing: Long Term Water Strategy Consultation Report

10:26am The following officials joined the meeting

Barbara Faloon – Head of Water Policy & Shareholder Unit, DRD
Julie-Ann Dutton – Head of Water Policy Environment Team, DRD
Julian Smyth – Water Policy & Shareholder Unit, DRD

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

10:43am Mr Lyttle joined the meeting

10:44am Mr Hussey joined the meeting

10:52am Mr McAleer left the meeting

11:06am Mr Lynch left the meeting

11:11am Mr Dallat left the meeting

11:13am Mr Lynch re-joined the meeting

11:23am The officials left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask how many water catchment areas are there, what are the levels at which we either have an excess or a deficiency of water and which level are we currently at.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request the names of those consultees who agreed to the introduction of metered households.

6. Department for Regional Development Briefing: PC15 Draft Determination Outcome

11:24am The following officials joined the meeting

Barbara Faloona – Head of Water Policy & Shareholder Unit, DRD

Grainne Samm – Accountant, Water Shareholder Unit, DRD

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

11:24am Mr Clarke left the meeting

11:24am The Deputy Chairperson assumed the role of Chairperson

11:37am Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting

11:38am Mr Moutray joined the meeting

11:51am Mr Hussey left the meeting

12:12pm Mr McNarry left the meeting

12:28pm The officials left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask what cash in hand does NI Water have and what was the total value of their assets at the end of the last financial year.

7. Subordinate Legislation not Subject to Assembly Procedure

Members noted:

- The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Londonderry) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015
- The One-Way Traffic (Belfast) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015
- The Waiting Restrictions (Portadown) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

8. SR 2015/13: The Level Crossing (Cullybackey South) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: That the Committee for Regional Development has considered SR 2015/13: The Level Crossing (Cullybackey South) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and has no objection to the rule.

9. Any Other Business

Mr Dallat raised the issue of the list of towns where the bus services were to be reduced or ceased as a result of the budget.

Agreed: Members agreed to write to the Department to request an update on this.

The Chairperson informed Members that the Committee will join Belfast Public Hire Taxis on a tour of Belfast taxi ranks on Wednesday 11th February 2015.

10. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 18th February 2015 at 10:00am in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

12:32pm The meeting was adjourned

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Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development
18/02/15