



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH 2015
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present:

Mr Trevor Clarke MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Sean Lynch MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
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)
Mr Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Barry McLernon (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

Mr Joe Byrne MLA

10:10am The meeting commenced in open session

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson gave Members an overview of the brief meeting he held with the Minister which took place on Tuesday 3rd March 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a briefing from the Minister in relation to the budget allocations 2015-16 as soon as possible.

10:16am Mr Hussey joined the meeting

The Chairperson updated Members of the Department's position regarding the release of the Project Assessment Review report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it exercises the power under Section 44(1) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to require the production of the Project Assessment Review report and that it writes to the Speaker in those terms.

The Chairperson informed Members that the Committee continues to face difficulties with the timely provision of papers from the Department.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to raise this issue with the Permanent Secretary during a forthcoming Committee session.

Mr Dallat raised the issue of under-representation of some groups on the boards of NI Water and Translink.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting of 25th February 2015.

4. Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence received.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding objections to 20mph pilot schemes.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding NI water crisis and Red Cross in Tyrone.

Mr Ó hOisín declared an interest as a member of North West Region Cross Border Group

Agreed: The Committee noted an invite to launch of the Maghera Community Garden and Allotment site at St Lurach's Church and Members agreed to contact Committee staff if they wished to attend.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding Northern Ireland Water Pension Dispute.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding its Inquiry into Economic Growth & Job Creation.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding a plaque at the scene of the road traffic fatality on Malone Road, Belfast.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding a summary of allocations for 2015-16.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding the Project Assessment Review report.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on emergency planning and governance arrangements.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners regarding engagement with the Committee.

5. Department for Regional Development Briefing: Financing of NI Water

10:25am 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.

10:59am The officials left the meeting

6. Consumer Council Briefing: Translink Fare Increases

11:00am The following representatives joined the meeting

Don Leeson – Interim Chief Executive, Consumer Council
Scott Kennerley – Director of Transport Policy, Consumer Council

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

- 11:21am *Mr McAleer left the meeting*
- 11:30am *Mr McAleer re-joined the meeting*
- 11:31am *Mr Hussey left the meeting*
- 11:36am *Mr McNarry left the meeting*
- 11:40am *Mr McNarry re-joined the meeting*
- 11:40am *Mr Dallat left the meeting*
- 11:41am *Mr Moutray joined the meeting*
- 11:49am *Mr McAleer left the meeting*
- 11:51am *The representatives left the meeting*

7. Department for Regional Development and Translink Briefing: Translink Fare Increases

11:52am *The following officials joined the meeting*

Ciaran Doran – Director of Public Transport Services Division, DRD

David Strahan – Chief Executive, Translink

Ciaran Rogan – Marketing Director, Translink

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

- 11:52am *Mr Lynch left the meeting*
- 12:31pm *Mr McAleer re-joined the meeting*
- 12:41pm *Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting*
- 12:47pm *Mr McNarry left the meeting*
- 12:48pm *Mr Clarke left the meeting*

Agreed: As the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson were not present, Mr Lyttle proposed that Mr Ó hOisín took the chair. All other Members present were in agreement.

12:48pm Mr Ó hOisín assumed the role of Chairperson

12:53pm Mr Dallat left the meeting

12:55pm Mr McNarry re-joined the meeting

12:58pm Mr Easton left the meeting

1:00pm Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting and re-assumed the role of Chairperson

1:19pm The officials left the meeting

8. Road Traffic (Speed Limits) Bill

The Chairperson informed Members that they had been provided with a draft Motion to Extend the Committee Stage, a draft forward work programme and a draft signposting advert in relation to the Road Traffic (Speed Limits) Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to table the Motion to Extend the Committee Stage of the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the signposting advert will be published in the local press week commencing 23rd March 2015.

9. Inquiry into the Benefits of Cycling to the Economy

The Chairperson informed Members that they had been provided with a draft Motion on the Committee's Inquiry into the Benefits of Cycling to the Economy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to table the Motion in relation to the Benefits of Cycling to the Economy.

10. Subordinate Legislation not Subject to Assembly Procedure

Members noted:

- The Road Races (Circuit of Ireland) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015
- The Parking Places on Roads (Coaches) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

11. Any Other Business

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

The Chairperson informed Members that the Committee will have a follow up session on Members' Development on Wednesday 18th March 2015.

12. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 25th March 2015 at 10:00am in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

1:21pm The meeting was adjourned

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Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development
25/03/15