



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

**COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2015  
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**Present:**

Mr Trevor Clarke MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Sean Lynch MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Alex Easton MLA  
Mr John Dallat MLA  
Ms Claire Hanna MLA  
Mr Cathal Ó hOisín MLA  
Mr Chris Lyttle MLA  
Mr Declan McAleer MLA  
Mr David McNarry MLA  
Mr Stephen Moutray MLA

**In attendance:**

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

**Apologies:**

*10:04am Mr Lynch assumed the role of Chairperson*

*10:04am The meeting commenced in open session*

**1. Apologies**

As above.

## **2. Chairperson's Business**

The Deputy Chair outlined the meeting with NI Water on 15 September 2015 regarding their Annual Report and Accounts.

## **3. Draft Minutes: Meeting of 9 September 2015**

*Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting of 9 September 2015.*

## **4. Correspondence**

Members noted the correspondence received.

*Agreed: Peter Close, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, and the Institute of Civil Engineers to brief the Committee on SuDS.*

*Agreed: The Clerk respond to the Environment Committee in respect of NI Environment Week.*

*Agreed: NI Water Annual Report and Accounts are forwarded to Research and Information Services for further scrutiny and that a presentation on the Annual Report and Accounts is scheduled for a future meeting.*

## **5. Future of Translink**

*10.07am The following official joined the meeting*

- Mr David Strahan, Chief Executive of Translink*

Members were briefed on the future of Translink by the outgoing Chief Executive of Translink, Mr David Strahan.

*10.09am Mr Clarke joined the meeting and assumed the role of Chairperson*

*10:12am Mr Moutray joined the meeting*

*10.16am Mr McAleer left the meeting.*

*10.18am Mr McAleer rejoined the meeting*

*10.23am Mr McNarry joined the meeting*

*10.35am Mr Lyttle joined the meeting*

*10.43am Ms Hanna left the meeting*

## **6. Department Governance Arrangements**

*10.43am The following official joined the meeting*

- *Mr Peter May, Permanent Secretary, DRD*

*10.46am Ms Hanna rejoined the meeting*

The Committee was informed that the Belfast Rapid Transport project has been delayed for one year until August 2018.

*Agreed: Project Assessment Review for Belfast Rapid Transport (BRT) to be forwarded to the Committee.*

*Agreed: Quarterly updates on the progress of BRT to be provided to the Committee.*

*Agreed: The Committee to write to the Minister of Finance and Personnel regarding the delay with Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT).*

*11.13am Mr Easton Joined the meeting.*

*11.25am Mr McNarry left the meeting.*

*11.33am Mr McNarry rejoined the meeting.*

*11.34am Mr Lyttle left the meeting.*

## **7. Department of Regional Development Accounts 2014-15**

*11.39am The following officials joined the meeting*

- *Mr Peter May, Permanent Secretary, DRD*
- *Mr John McNeill, Finance Director, DRD*
- *Ms Brighdin McAleenan, Financial Accounting Branch, DRD*
- *Ms Barbara Faloona, Water Policy & Shareholder Division, DRD*

Officials answered questions on the Department of Regional Development Accounts 2014-15.

*11.43am Mr McAleer left the meeting.*

*11.44am Mr Lyttle rejoined the meeting.*

*11.52am Mr McAleer rejoined the meeting.*

11.54am Mr Lynch left the meeting.

Agreed: More information relating to the increase in staff costs from the 2013-14 to be provided by the Department.

Agreed: A breakdown of staff absences for the last 3 years to be provided by the Department.

Agreed: A copy of the letter to Translink requesting additional information to be provided in its Annual report and Accounts to be forwarded to the Permanent Secretary.

Agreed: A briefing on Strategic Drainage to be provided at a future meeting.

12.03pm Mr Moutray left the meeting.

12.07pm Ms Hanna left the meeting.

12.17pm Mr Easton left the meeting.

#### **8. Any Other Business**

12.19pm Mr Moutray rejoined the meeting.

Agreed: Press Release relating to the delay in the Belfast Rapid Transit project was agreed for issue.

#### **Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 23 September 2015 at 10:00am in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

12.22 The meeting was adjourned.

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**Mr Trevor Clarke MLA**  
**Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development**  
**23/09/15**