



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2016
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present:

Mr Trevor Clarke MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Seán Lynch (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Cathal Ó hOisín MLA
Mr Chris Lyttle MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr David McNarry MLA

In attendance:

Mr Trevor Allen (Senior Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Christopher McNickle (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Oliver Bellew (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Barry McLernon (Clerical Officer)

12.44pm: The meeting opened in public session.

12.45pm: Mr McAleer joined the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite Departmental officials to brief the Committee on Belfast City Airport noise levels.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek comment on the availability of concessionary tickets on public transport for blind and partially sighted people.

3. DRAFT MINUTES

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting on 10 February 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting on 16 February 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting on 17 February 2016.

4. MATTERS ARISING

The Committee noted an update from the Department in relation to details of the Translink App that will provide information on public transport for people with visual impairment.

The Committee noted an update on the proposals relating to the sale of Lough Cowey.

The Committee noted a response from the Department in relation to public transport and the facilities for locking wheelchairs during travel.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to the member of the public who raised the issue.

The Committee noted a response from the Department on information sought on the 2016-17 budget.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department detailing information sought by the Committee following the Northern Ireland Water briefing on its annual report and accounts for 2014-15.

The Committee noted a copy of the response from the Minister for Regional Development to Mr Chris Lyttle MLA on the public petition in relation to Cairn Wood Forest Park.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding Public Hire taxis in Belfast.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding the progress against the Programme for Government commitments to walking or cycling to school as the main mode of transport.

The Committee noted a response from the Department in relation to the action of Translink to the health and safety incident on the Enterprise service.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee noted a written Ministerial Statement on the Consultation on Draft Statutory Orders and Environmental Statement on A5 Western Transport Corridor.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the EU Funding Programmes PEACE IV and INTERREG V.

The Committee noted EIS Press Releases in relation to:

- a consultation to start on the A5 scheme;
- the announcement of a £100,000 road improvement scheme at A29 Keady Road, Ballyards;
- the commencement of £225,000 road improvements on Ballylough Road, Castlewellan;
- the announcement of a £230,000 road improvements for Crossgar; and
- the commencement of £340,000 road improvements in Omagh.

The Committee noted a draft press release on the Committee's visit to the sustainable drainage sites on 24 February 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to issue the press release on the day of the visit.

The Committee noted an invitation from Eolas magazine to the annual Transport Ireland Conference entitled A Roadmap for Future Mobility which will be held in Dublin 21 April 2016.

The Committee noted a Report from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People on the investment of public resources in the wellbeing of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted correspondence from an individual on the need to grit Bishop Street, Derry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department for comment on its consideration of adding Bishop Street to the gritting schedule and to request that it responds directly to the individual and copy the Committee in on the response.

The Committee noted a letter from Mr Alastair Ross MLA and the response from the Minister regarding a constituent's concerns in relation to roundabouts at Toome and LED Street lights.

The Committee noted correspondence in relation to the Committee for Employment and Learning Inquiry into post Special Educational Need (SEN) Provision in education, employment and training for those with Learning Disabilities in Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted a response from the Consumer Council to the Committee's letter regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between the Consumer Council and the Department for Regional Development with regard to the need for legislation in relation to the Consumer Council on transport issues. A copy the Memorandum of Understanding and the Service Level Agreement was also noted.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a copy of the meeting schedule between the Department and the Consumer Council.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward information with regard to unadopted sewers and connections, to the Consumer Council and request feedback.

Agreed: The Committee agreed close off on the inquiry into the Consumer Council and that this be referenced in its legacy report.

The Committee noted the latest edition of Northern Ireland Water's staff magazine – "Waterline".

6-9. SL1s – TO NOTE

Agreed: The Committee was content to note the following SL1s:

- SL1 - The Road Races (Craigantlet Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016
- SL1 - SL1 - The Road Races (Croft Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016
- The Road Races (Garron Point Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016
- The Footways (Prohibition of Waiting) (Heather Drive, Newtownabbey) Order 2016
- The Parking Places (Disabled Persons' Vehicles) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016
- The Urban Clearway Order (Northern Ireland) 2015
- The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Dungannon) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016
- The Road Races (Eagles Rock Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016
- The Road Races (Cairncastle Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016
- The Road Races (Cookstown 100) order (Northern Ireland) 2016

10. SL1s – NEGATIVE RESOLUTION

Agreed: The Committee was content with the merits of the policy proposal for The River Road, Dunmurry (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the merits of the policy proposal for The Train Driving Licences and Certificates (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

11. STATUTORY RULE – NEGATIVE RESOLUTION

Agreed: The Committee for Regional Development has considered SR 2016/40: The Former Route C646 Killyliss Road, Dungannon (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and subject to the ESR's report has no objection to the rule.

12. STATUTORY RULE – NEGATIVE RESOLUTION

Agreed: The Committee for Regional Development has considered SR 2016/38: The Green Road, Conlig (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and subject to the ESR's report has no objection to the rule.

13. STATUTORY RULE – NEGATIVE RESOLUTION

Agreed: The Committee for Regional Development has considered SR 2016/36: The College Street, Belfast (Stopping-Up) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and subject to the ESR's report has no objection to the rule.

14. STATUTORY RULE – NEGATIVE RESOLUTION

Agreed: The Committee for Regional Development has considered SR 2016/30: The Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and has no objection to the rule.

15. DRAFT FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Agreed: The Committee considered and agreed the forward work programme until the end of the mandate.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee considered the arrangements for a visit to three Sustainable Drainage Systems sites in Belfast, Bangor and Dundonald on Wednesday 24 February 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to proceed with the visit as planned.

1.07pm: The meeting moved into closed session.

The Committee considered the publication of its Report on its Inquiry into the Coleraine to Londonderry Rail Track Phase Two Project.

1.09pm: Mr Seán Lynch MLA left the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to publish the Report on its Inquiry into the Coleraine to Londonderry Rail Track Phase Two Project on the Assembly website.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee will be on Wednesday 2 March 2016 at 10am in Room 21 Parliament Buildings.

1.10pm: The Chairperson adjourned the meeting

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Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development

2 March 2016