



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY 2016
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present:

Mr Trevor Clarke MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Seán Lynch MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat MLA
Mrs Brenda Hale MLA
Mr Stephen Moutray MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr Daniel McCrossan MLA
Mr David McNarry MLA
Mr Adrian Cochrane-Watson MLA

In attendance:

Mr Trevor Allen (Senior Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Kate McCullough (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Leanne Johnston (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Barry McLernon (Clerical Officer)

10.10am: The meeting opened in public session

CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

The Chairperson reflected on the meeting with the Minister held on 18 January 2016 to discuss the relationship between the Department and the Committee. The Chairperson asked Members not to release papers in advance of matters coming to the Committee and made it clear that, in speaking to the media, Members should clarify that they are not speaking on behalf of the Committee.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Ó hÓisín.

2. DRAFT MINUTES: MEETING OF 13 JANUARY 2016

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting on 13 January 2016.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Members considered a letter and information to be sent to government departments, key agencies and organisations to highlight the positive impact of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and to seek their comments.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to circulate the letter and information.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the department to provide a comparison between Herne Hill and Dulwich Flood Alleviation programme and any SuDS programmes in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee considered information on the shortening of the northbound bus lane at the Europa Hotel, Great Victoria Street, Belfast and agreed to write to the Department seeking clarification on the issue of fines pertaining to this bus lane.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted and considered the correspondence.

Agreed: Members agreed to invite Belfast City Airport Watch to brief the Committee at its meeting on 10 February 2016 on the issue of airport noise.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to inform the Committee for Finance and Personnel on its decision to write to the Law Society regarding conveyancing and sewer bonds.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to receive a briefing from Translink, at its meeting on Wednesday 27 January 2016, on changes to the timetable for the train service from Belfast to Dublin. The Committee will also receive briefing on recent health and safety concerns and train speeds in relation to the Enterprise service from Belfast to Dublin.

5. BRIEFING ON THE FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE (DFI)

10.30am: The following officials joined the meeting:

- *Ms Moira Doherty – DFI Project Director*
- *Mr Peter Rice – DFI Project Manager*

10.33am: Mrs Hale joined the meeting
10.43am: Mr McAleer left the meeting
10.48am: Mr McAleer joined the meeting

The Committee received briefing on the establishment of the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) and requesting written clarification on a number of issues raised.

11.10am: Officials left the meeting

6. BUDGET 2016/17

11.11am: The following officials joined the meeting:

- Mr John McNeill, Director of Finance
- Mr Stewart Barnes, Grade 7, Finance Division

The Committee received briefing on the budget allocations for 2016-17 to the Department for Regional Development and new DFI.

11.14am: Mr Cochrane-Watson joined the meeting
11.30am: Mr Lynch left the meeting
11.32am: Mr Lynch joined the meeting
11.39am: Mr Moutray joined the meeting
11.44am: Mr McNarry left the meeting
11.48am: Mr McNarry joined the meeting
11.48am: Mr Cochrane-Watson left the meeting
11.51am: Mr McAleer left the meeting
11.53am: Mr McAleer joined the meeting
11.54am: Mrs Hale left the meeting
12.01am: Mr Cochrane-Watson joined the meeting
12.05am: Mrs Hale joined the meeting
12.08m: Mr McNarry left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to receive further written briefing clarifying issues raised in relation to the flagship projects of the A5 and A6 road schemes and the Belfast Rapid Transit scheme.

12.10pm: Officials left the meeting

12.10pm: Mr McCrossan left the meeting

7-14 SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION NOT SUBJECT TO ASSEMBLY PROCEDURES

Members noted the SL1s received from the Department.

15. STATUTORY RULE – NEGATIVE RESOLUTION

Agreed: That the Committee for Regional Development has considered SR 2015/373: The U125 Old Grand Jury Road, Saintfield (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and has no objection to the rule.

16. STATUTORY RULE – NEGATIVE RESOLUTION

Agreed: That the Committee for Regional Development has considered SR 2015/374: The U6076 Cloghanramer Road, Newry (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and has no objection to the rule.

17. EUROPEAN COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered a draft response to the Committee for the OFMdfM in relation to the European Commission Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to the Committee for the OFMdfM.

18. DRAFT FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Agreed: Members considered and agreed the draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to change from an inquiry report to an issues paper on the Department's Programme for Government targets and to reference the paper in the Committee's Legacy Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to move the briefings from the Assembly Research and Information Service and from the Department on the Programme for Government targets from 27 January to 3 February 2016 and to replace it with an oral briefing from Translink.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members noted a press release on the appointment of 4 Belfast City Councillors to the Board of Belfast Harbour Commissioners.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee will be on Wednesday 27 January 2016 at 10am in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

12.15pm: The Chairperson adjourned the meeting

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Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development

27 January 2016