

Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure End of Session Report 1st September 2013 – 31st August 2014

Remit and Powers

The Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure (The Committee) is a Statutory Departmental Committee established in accordance with paragraph 8 and 9 of the Belfast Agreement, Section 29 of the NI Act 1998 and under Assembly Standing Order 48. The Committee has a scrutiny, policy development and consultation role in respect of the Minister of Culture, Arts & Leisure and has a role to play in the initiation, consideration and development of legislation.

The Committee has the power to:

- Consider and advise on Departmental budgets and annual plans in the context of the overall budget allocation;
- Approve relevant secondary legislation and take the Committee stage of primary legislation;
- Call for persons and papers;
- Initiate inquiries and make reports; and
- Consider and advise on matters brought to the Committee by the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure.

The Committee has 11 members, including a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, with a quorum of 5 members.

The membership of the Committee is as follows:

Miss Michelle McIlveen (Chairperson)
Mr William Irwin (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Dominic Bradley
Mr David Hilditch
Mr William Humphrey ³
Mr Basil McCrea ⁴
Mrs Rosaleen McCorley ²
Mr Michael McGimpsey
Mrs Karen McKeivitt
Mr Oliver McMullan ¹
Mr Cathal Ó hOisín

¹ With effect from 12 September 2011 Mr Oliver McMullan replaced Mr Gerry Kelly

² With effect from 10 September 2012 Ms Rosie McCorley replaced Mr Pat Sheehan

³ With effect from 01 October 2012 Mr William Humphrey replaced Ms Brenda Hale

⁴ With effect from 04 March 2013 Mr Basil McCrea replaced Mr Robin Swann

This report covers the work of the the Committee from 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014.

Key activities, outputs and achievements

Introduction

During the 2013-14 session, the Committee fulfilled its scrutiny role through consideration of the following key issues:

- The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure's (the Department) expenditure, Business Plan and Promoting Equality and Tackling Social Exclusion (PETPSE) and Building a United Community (T:BUC) initiatives.
- The annual reports and accounts of DCAL's Arms' Length Bodies (ALBs) and the Department's reviews of these bodies. The Committee has offered its views on all of the Stage 2 reports that have been submitted to it to date;
- The Executive's EU Priorities Implementation Report for 2012-2013 and, specifically, Departmental targets within the document.
- DCAL's role and input into the work of other Departments including the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the promotion of tourism and bidding for large-scale sporting events; the Department of Regional Development and its Inquiry into the Benefits of Cycling to the Northern Ireland Economy; the Department of Agriculture and Rural development and the Lough Neagh Cross Departmental Working Group.

The Committee completed its Investigation into Gaps in Child Protection and Safeguarding across the Culture, Arts and Leisure Remit, making twenty two recommendations to the Department. An Inquiry into Inclusion in the Arts of Working Class Communities began during the session with both written and oral submissions taken and a stakeholder event held in Portstewart. The Inquiry is ongoing.

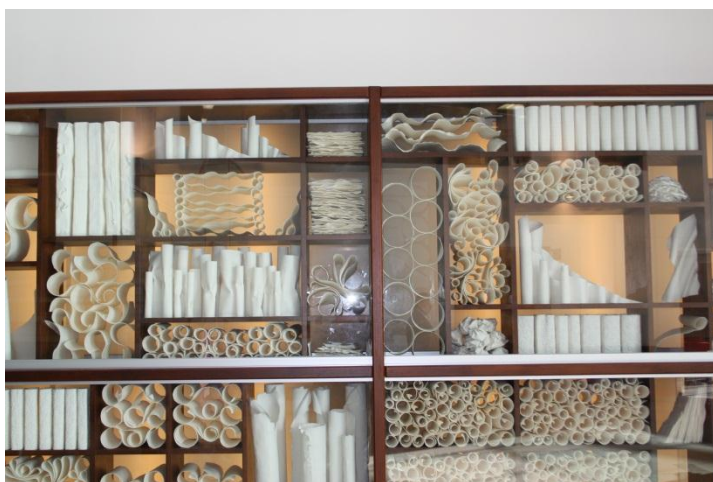
The Committee commissioned a broad range of research papers from the Assembly Research and Information Service (RaISe) to assist in its work. The subjects included the costs of coaching badges in a variety of sports, women and sport, sign language, motorsport infrastructure and angling tourism.

During this session, the Committee met 34 times. The majority of meeting time was in public session. While the Committee has indicated a preference for meeting in public, there are occasions when it must meet in closed session most notably when considering and approving Committee reports. The Committee also met informally on a number of occasions to hear briefings and to discuss a range of subjects including: local TV, salmon conservation, Lough Neagh and archeological archives.

The Committee met outside Parliament Buildings on eight occasions. These meetings were held at: The North West Regional College and the Magee College Campus,

University of Ulster in Londonderry; Jordanstown Campus, University of Ulster; Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI); The Crescent Arts Centre; The Grand Opera House; the Skainos Centre in Belfast and the Flowerfield Arts Centre, Portstewart.

Ongoing work to improve access to the work of the Committee saw temporary cameras installed in Room 21 of Parliament Buildings to record, and sometimes broadcast live, meetings. Consequently, there is now a watch again facility for Committee meetings via the [Assembly website](#). The Committee also began using Twitter ([@niacalcommittee](#)) to notify interested parties of its work, upcoming events and consultations.



Picture: The Committee met at PRONI in February 2014. Left is some of the public artwork on display there.

LEGISLATION

Primary Legislation

The Committee has responsibility to consider primary legislation that originates from the Department. The Department did not introduce any primary legislation during this period.

Subordinate Legislation

The Committee considered and supported the approval of the following Statutory Rules:

- Salmon Conservation Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014;
- Salmon Netting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014;
- Salmon Drift Net Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and
- Fisheries Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Under the provisions of the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966 the Department is responsible for the salmon and inland fisheries of Northern Ireland. The Department works with Loughs Agency and NI Environment Agency to ensure sustainable management of fishery resources and has priority for the conservation and protection of salmon.

This subordinate legislation aimed at improving salmon conservation follows that approved in the 2012-2013 session, as a result of earlier calls from the Committee to ensure an equitable, balanced, fair and transparent approach to salmon conservation. The Committee was briefed by Department officials in November 2013 and January 2014 on this issue to provide an update on the Department's consultation on conservation and, in particular, the threat to the Wild Atlantic Salmon of extinction.

INQUIRIES AND INVESTIGATIONS

Inquiry into the Economic Potential of the Creative Industries in Northern Ireland

The Committee completed this Inquiry in the 2012-2013 session and the Inquiry report was brought to the floor of the Assembly in March 2013.

The Minister responded formally to the report on 25th September 2013 thanking the Committee for its work and noting that the Inquiry brought 'an enhanced public focus upon the creative industries and facilitated engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders'.

Following the publication of the report, the Department established a cross-departmental and strategic platform to more fully realize the potential of Northern

Ireland's creative and cultural industries. The Department contributed to the Executive's draft innovation Strategy on behalf of the creative industries and the Minister, in her response, added that her Department's approach 'will enable further consideration and implementation of specific findings and recommendations arising from the Committee's Inquiry. The Committee will continue to receive briefings on the Department's response to the recommendations.

The report is available to view at [CAL Committee Reports](#)

Investigation into Gaps in Child Protection and Safeguarding across the Culture, Arts and Leisure Remit

At its meeting on 15th October 2013, the Committee agreed its report which made 22 recommendations. The Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure (the Minister) thanked the Committee for the report in the Assembly on 11th November 2013. Nine of the twenty two recommendations were accepted and nine partially accepted. Further recommendations were for other Departments. The Minister has committed to provide the Committee with regular progress reports. The issues that the Inquiry covered are complex and highly sensitive and it will take some time for the Department to work through these with the Committee and other Departments.

The report is available to view at [CAL Committee Reports](#).

The Committee agreed during the 2012-2013 session to proceed with an investigation rather than a full inquiry so that the evidence gathering process could be undertaken over a more condensed period and that it would have a specific focus.

The investigation looked for gaps in child protection and safeguarding across the Department's remit and identified examples of best practice. Between January and May 2013, the Committee received written submissions and heard oral evidence from a wide variety of organisations, groups and bodies, including the Department, Department Arms' Length Bodies, PSNI, Child Protection and Online Protection Unit. The Committee also heard from a range of stakeholders.

Inquiry into Inclusion in the Arts of Working Class Communities

During 2013-2014 session the Committee launched an inquiry into Inclusion in the Arts of Working Class Communities. The key objective of the inquiry is to examine the accessibility and outreach activity of arts venues and bodies. The inquiry will further seek to establish the impact of these on the inclusion in the arts of working class communities. Overall, the aim of the inquiry is to pinpoint and understand barriers to inclusion in the arts faced by members of working class communities and to make recommendations as to how these might be overcome.

To date, the Committee has received almost 50 written submissions and has taken oral evidence from a wide range of organisations and individuals. The Committee held a stakeholder event at Flowerfield Arts Centre in Portstewart in June 2014 and a

further event will be held at the Lyric Theatre in September 2014. The Committee expects to report on its findings by the end of 2014.

Further information regarding the Inquiry, including the full terms of reference and written submissions are available to view at [CAL Committee Inquiries](#)



Pictured (I): CAL Committee Members and stakeholders at the Inclusion in the Arts of working Class Communities event at Flowerfield Arts Centre.

BUDGET SCRUTINY

The Committee was briefed by the Minister on the Department's Business Plan 2013-2014 on 26 October 2013 and subsequently received updates from the Department on the management of its annual budget, including a range of adjustments that affected spending profiles in advance of each monitoring round.

Members questioned officials on departmental bids, reduced requirements and surrendered resources and on underlying policy and budget priorities where necessary. The Committee particularly focused on the spending profile of projects which received Executive investment, administered by the Department.

The Committee also considered the findings of the Public Accounts Committee in their report entitled **DCAL: Management of Major Capital Projects** published in October 2013. During the session, the Committee received briefings from the Northern Ireland Audit Office and Sport NI on St. Colman's College application to Sport NI for funding under the Building Sport Programme in November 2006. The NIAO delivered a critical report on the projects. The Committee sought and received an oral briefing from the Chief Executive of Sport NI detailing lessons learned, corrective action taken and policies and procedures revised as a result of the project.

DCAL's funding of **stadia redevelopment** at Casement, Ravenhill and Windsor Park and scrutiny of the construction costs and timetables. The Committee sought assurances that these investments were value for money and will deliver a legacy for

everyone in Northern Ireland. The Committee sought assurances from the Minister regarding project funding in light of the decision to grant Crusaders leave to apply for a judicial review regarding the redevelopment of Windsor Park and residents' concerns regarding the Casement redevelopment.

The Committee gave close scrutiny to the **new funding model for the teaching of the Irish Language** as agreed by the North South Ministerial Council Language Meeting in July 2013 and the subsequent announcement in January 2014 by Foras na Gaeilge of the six lead organisations for taking the language forward. The Committee expressed concern that the Partnership Forum and Language Development Forum lacked adequate and expert Northern Ireland representation and that the six lead organisations were based in the Republic. The Committee also scrutinised uptake and funding for the Líofo initiative and, in particular, scrutinized the cost of annual birthday events for Líofo. The Committee also sought reassurance on the breakdown of the advertising budget.

POLICY SCRUTINY

In November 2013, the Minister made a speech regarding the legacy of the **Derry /Londonderry UK City of Culture 2013** and her plans to: set up a company limited by guarantee to deliver legacy programmes; and set up a DCAL North West Office. The Committee invited the Minister to brief members on the £2m of approved projects for the financial year 2014-2015 and bids for funding for the longer term.

Throughout the session, the Committee has advocated **world class cycling facilities** in Northern Ireland since receiving correspondence from Cycling Ireland in March 2013 outlining a number of issues for cycling in Northern Ireland, particularly the poor state of facilities. Following briefings to the Committee by the Ulster Sports Academy, Cycling Ulster and Sports Institute Northern Ireland and submissions from Wendy Houvenaghel, Martyn Irvine and James Brown as well as visits to Velodromes in Dublin, Glasgow, London and Newport, the Committee submitted a report to the Minister in February 2014. The report recommended: an outdoor track; an indoor velodrome and the development of a multi-sport facility. The Minister informed the Committee in May 2014 that Department officials are exploring options for collaborative work with a number of councils to provide sporting facilities and she is content that the provision of an indoor velodrome track can also be considered in those discussions. In addition, officials are also discussing with their counterparts in the south, how All Island facilities can be developed.

As Northern Ireland plays host to a growing number of international and prestigious events, The Committee is keen to ensure that the anticipated legacies of such events are clearly defined, realistic and benefit as many people as possible. The Committee was briefed in October 2013 and March 2014 on the success of the games and the work to ensure a strong legacy. Following the success of the Giro d'Italia Big Start in 2014 the Committee will continue working to ensure a valid legacy from such events and will be briefed by Volunteer Now in the new session.

Broadcasting matters were considered by Members through the session. Issues scrutinised included the extension of Channel 4's licence; the upcoming renewal of the BBC Charter; local TV broadcasting licences and the Future of the BBC Inquiry by the Select Committee for Culture, Media and Sports at Westminster. The Committee's written evidence to this Inquiry is available [here](#). The Committee will host the Director General of the BBC at an event in Parliament buildings in October 2014.

The Committee continued its work looking at **amateur boxing** in Northern Ireland and, in particular, allegations of racism and sectarianism in the sport. The Committee was instrumental in the setting up of an Independent Working Group to look at these issues and was briefed by the Group on its report *Examining Boxing in Ulster* in January 2014. The Committee also considered the Boxing Investment Programme.

The Committee remains keen to pursue an EU workstream particularly in relation to its Creative Industries Inquiry and funding calls to **Creative Europe** and **Horizon 2020**. The Committee also considered an EU Proposal for a European Film Forum and has asked the Minister and NI Screen to comment on the proposals. Members have also begun to scrutinise the emerging role in sport being developed by the EU.

The Committee has continued to request and receive timely briefings at relevant milestones during DCAL's review of its **Arm's Length Bodies**. This process is ongoing through the current mandate.

The Committee is also maintaining interest in the redevelopment of Library Square and working to ensure that Belfast Central Library becomes a regional library with appropriate facilities and accommodation.

COMMITTEE MOTIONS

During the session, there were two Committee motions both of which received Assembly agreement.

That this Assembly recognises the economic, cultural, social and educational benefits that a regional library for Northern Ireland would provide; and urges the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to engage with Executive colleagues and other partners to pursue Belfast central library's redevelopment plan to create a regional library as part of the overall Library Square project.

The motion was debated on 17 September 2013. The transcript can be viewed [here](#).

That this Assembly approves the report of the The Committee into Gaps in Child Protection and Safeguarding across the Culture, Arts and Leisure Remit [NIA 140/11-15]; and calls on the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to implement the recommendations contained in the report.

The motion was debated on 11 November 2013. The transcript can be viewed [here](#).

ENGAGEMENT

Informal Meetings and Visits

The Committee also held informal meetings with National Museums NI, Sport NI, Ards & Down Salmonid Enhancement Association (ADSEA) and the Ineqe Group and IFA on their phone application for safeguarding children,

In addition to the eight external committee meetings, the Committee visited Strangford Lough and Lough Cowey, the Sports Institute and Dublin, London and Newport.

Dublin October 2013

Over the past few years, the Committee has been undertaking work around the conservation and storage of artefacts. This is an issue that involves the Department for the Environment as well as the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure. DCAL's responsibilities centre on the museums and galleries and the conservation and storage of their collections, while DoE is responsible for the artefacts delivered from archaeological digs. The Committee is aware that there hundreds of thousands of artefacts that have come from these digs that are not fully catalogued and where ownership is not always clear. Additionally, in most cases, the whereabouts of these artefacts is not clear. The issue in Northern Ireland is partly around storage, but it is also about the lack of a clear legal framework which creates a process that identifies ownership of artefacts when they are discovered and also their cataloguing and eventual storage. As part of this study visit, the Committee visited the libraries headquarters to look at the storage of records there.

Next the Committee visited Parnell Square to see the site of the proposed Central Library and Cultural Quarter; a project which uses cultural activity as a catalyst for regeneration. The plan is similar to that for Library Square in Belfast.

An issue raised by the Creative Industries Inquiry was the limited provision for those who wish to study performing arts here at the tertiary level. As part of this study visit the Committee visited The Lir Theatre School. Members wanted to gain a better understanding of how a small school operates away from access to a significant commercial theatre base, such as London.

The Committee visited the outdoor cycling track at Eamonn Ceannt Park in Dublin. The track there has been upgraded in the past few years by Dublin City Council in

conjunction with Cycling Ireland which bases its track activities there. As the governance of cycling operates on an all-island basis, this facility is available to track cyclists from Northern Ireland.

Wales National Velodrome November 2013

Following the visit to Dublin and in anticipation of the Giro d'Italia the Committee had a particular interest in looking at participation, safety and developing high performance athletes as part of maximizing the legacy of this world class event.

The indoor velodrome in Wales was suggested as the model most likely to be replicated on Northern Ireland, both in terms of need and cost. The visit gave Committee members the opportunity to meet with representatives of Welsh Cycling and Newport City Council.

London December 2013

During this visit the Committee met with the Commons Select Committee for Culture, Media and Sport, the Lord EU Scrutiny Select Committee Sub-Committee E and representatives of the City of London Corporation. These meetings covered such diverse topics as the Future of the BBC and the renewal of its Charter in 2016; the Committee's Investigation into gaps in child protection and safeguarding across the CAL remit; and provision of performing arts training and facilities and participation in and access to the arts generally.

Members visited the Barbican and Guildhall School of Music and Drama to hear about their work in commissioning art pieces, training for the performing arts and taking the arts to deprived communities. The Committee also visited Arts Educational which is a successful third level provider of performing arts training. Members were interested in gaining a perspective on the advantages provided by close proximity to London's theatres with regard to career prospects and learning opportunities.

The Committee has also often discussed the potential for the hosting of large-scale sporting events acting as a catalyst for economic and social regeneration. Members saw considerable evidence of this during their visit to the Commonwealth Games venues in Glasgow in June 2013. The Committee heard about the regeneration of the East end of Glasgow and the role that the Commonwealth Games coming to the city played in this. During this study visit the Committee met with representatives of the London Legacy Development Corporation and the Lee Valley Authority. Members heard how the building of the main venues for the 2012 London Olympic Games in the East of the city dovetailed with a number of regeneration strategies. The Committee also heard how the facilities and being managed and developed following the end of the Games and how the local area benefits.

The Committee has been considering options for upgrading the facilities available to cyclists in Northern Ireland. As part of this study visit the Committee visited the outdoor cycling track at Eamonn Ceannt Park in Dublin. The track there has been upgraded in the past few years by Dublin City Council in conjunction with Cycling Ireland which bases its track activities there. As the governance of cycling operates on an all-island

basis, this facility is available to track cyclists from Northern Ireland. The Committee had previously seen the Commonwealth Games velodrome in Glasgow in June 2013 and Members had also visited the National Velodrome of Wales in Newport in November 2013. This study visit to the London velodrome meant that Members had seen the broadest range of examples of velodromes, allowing them to consider what might best suit Northern Ireland.

Events

Reception in Londonderry as part of the UK City of Culture Celebrations (2013)

Following on from the Committee's organisation of joint Committee meetings held in June 2013 recognising Londonderry's UK City of Culture status, four Committees met in Londonderry in October 2013 at the Magee College Campus of the University of Ulster. As a profiling event, the CAL Committee hosted an evening reception in the Shirt Factory on Patrick Street in Londonderry. The Assembly Speaker, William Hay MLA, spoke at the event and reflected on Londonderry's changing industrial landscape. The reception's theme was 'Change and Renewal' and the event reflected on changes in the make-up of the city's economy. The city's history in textile manufacture, specifically shirt making, and its new role as a hub for the digital media industry was explored and celebrated.

Arts for All tapestry

The project has been delivered by **Arts for All** in conjunction with intercultural arts organization **ArtsEkta**. The piece was completed between February and October 2013 and involved participants from English, Indian, Colombian, Japanese, Polish and Dutch backgrounds who worked alongside participants from Belfast port and docks communities. The Committee hosted the displaying of the tapestry in Parliament Buildings in December 2013.

Exhibition at SpaceCraft

The Committee joined in the celebration of Creativity Month in March by hosting an interactive exhibition of crafts at the SpaceCraft shop at the Fountain Centre in Belfast. SpaceCraft is a not-for-profit social enterprise run by the Craft & Design Collective. It is a focal point for the display commissioning and sale of art, craft and design in Northern Ireland. The Committee used the opportunity to meet a number of local craftspeople and showcase their work.

Flowerfield Arts Centre

The Committee held a stakeholder event at Flowerfields Arts Centre in Portstewart in June 2014 to inform its Inquiry into Inclusion of the working Class in the Arts. The event allowed a number of stakeholders to convey to the Committee the barriers to inclusion as they see them as well as to report on examples of good practice.

PRIORITIES FOR THE 2014-15 SESSION

The Committee aims to direct its attention on a wide and varied range of issues throughout the 2013-14 Session. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Scrutiny of monitoring rounds and departmental budgeting, including the impact of in-year budget reductions and reductions to the 2015-16 budget;
- DCAL's review of its Arm's Length Bodies and also the annual reports and accounts of these;
- Golf, angling and other sports-based tourism in Northern Ireland;
- Continuing scrutiny of stadia redevelopment;
- Adequacy of sports facilities and their better utilization;
- Legacy of the Giro d'Italia, UK City of Culture in Londonderry, World Police and Fire Games and the Commonwealth Games;
- Volunteering at sporting and other events hosted in Northern Ireland;
- Publication of the Committee's Inquiry into Inclusion in the Arts of Working Class Communities;
- Broadcasting, including the renewal of the BBC's Charter in 2016 and community broadcasting;
- The North West 200 and Dale Farm Milk Cup;
- Various aspects of the media;
- The Fisheries Bill; and
- Sign language

ANNEX A

Expenditure for the period 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014

Budget area	Details	Expenditure
Committee Travel - committee members and staff travel and subsistence in relation to visits and meetings outside Parliament Buildings	<p>Includes the cost of 5 committee visits to:</p> <p>Strangford Lough and Lough Cowey, the Sports Institute and Dublin, London and Newport</p> <p>and 8 meetings held outside Parliament Buildings:</p> <p>The North West Regional College and the Magee College Campus, University of Ulster in Londonderry; Jordanstown Campus, University of Ulster; Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI); The Crescent Arts Centre; The Grand Opera House; the Skainos Centre in Belfast and the Flowerfield Arts Centre, Portstewart.</p>	£14,492.59
Printing of committee reports	<p>Includes the cost of committee report on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation into Gaps in Child Protection and Safeguarding across Culture, Arts and Leisure Remit 	£1,019.36
General expenses	Cost of refreshments for committee meetings, working lunches, seminars, room hire, witness expenses, gifts provided by the committee during visits and conference fees for members.	£5,124.63
Total Expenditure		£20,636.58