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## **Committee for Infrastructure**

### **Minutes of Proceedings**

**25 February 2026**

**Meeting Location:** Room 29, Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Belfast

**Present:**

Mr Peter Martin MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr John Stewart MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Harry Harvey MLA  
Mr Stephen Dunne MLA  
Mr Andrew McMurray MLA  
Mr Justin McNulty MLA  
Mr Peter McReynolds MLA  
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA  
Mr Maolfosa McHugh MLA

**In Attendance:**

Mr Michael Potter (Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Aoife Keating-Fitzpatrick (Senior Assistant Clerk)  
Mr Philip Pateman (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Jonathan Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Oliver Briant (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 10:00 am in public session.



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**1. Apologies**

As above.

**2. Declaration of Interests**

Mr Cathal Boylan MLA declared an interest as having a family member who is employed by the Department for Infrastructure.

**3. Minister for Infrastructure – Departmental Update and Current Issues**

The following departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:02 am.

- Mrs Liz Kimmins MLA, Minister for Infrastructure; and
- Mr Declan McGeown, Interim Permanent Secretary, Department for Infrastructure.

The Committee agreed that the evidence is recorded by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

The departmental officials left the meeting at 11:51 am

The Committee suspended at 11:52 pm.

The Committee recommenced at 12:02 pm with following Members present:

Mr Peter Martin MLA (Chairperson)

Mr John Stewart MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Harry Harvey MLA

Mr Stephen Dunne MLA

Mr Andrew McMurray MLA



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Mr Justin McNulty MLA

Mr Cathal Boylan MLA

Mr Maolíosa McHugh MLA

**4. Chairperson's Business**

The Chairperson informed members of correspondence that he had received in respect of diplomatic parking bays and undertook to provide the correspondence for the Committee's consideration.

**5. Draft Minutes**

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 18 February 2026.

**6. Matters Arising**

The Committee considered a draft response to the Committee for Finance reflecting the issues considered from the written evidence on the Draft Budget 2026-29/30.

**Agreed:** To forward the response to the Committee for Finance.

The Committee considered a Clerk's brief reflecting outcomes from its last meeting on the Active Travel Delivery Plan.

**Agreed:** To write to the Department for Infrastructure summarising the Committee's views of the Active Travel Delivery Plan reflecting the Committee's preference for an independent Chairperson.



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## 7. Correspondence

Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to the Committee request for further information on the Department's assessment of the unfunded pay pressure of £2.1m.

**Agreed:** To write to the Department seeking further detail on the high profile schemes and the enhanced road recovery programme fund as referenced in the response.

**Agreed:** To write to the Department to seek clarity on whether monies allocated by DfI for spending this year will be fully spent and won't be impeded by resourcing or staffing constraints.

Correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (CAERA) on a potential concurrent meeting to receive evidence from Northern Ireland Water on the Lough Neagh Action Plan and the Planning Statutory Consultee Forum.

**Agreed:** To confirm that the Committee is content with a CAERA-led concurrent meeting to receive oral evidence from Northern Ireland Water on the Lough Neagh Action Plan and the Planning Statutory Consultee Forum.

Correspondence from Translink offering to provide oral evidence to the Committee in respect of the Draft Budget 2026-2030.

**Agreed:** To schedule oral evidence from Translink at an appropriate date in the Forward Work Programme.

Peter McReynolds MLA joined the meeting at 12:09 pm.

A response from the Minister for Infrastructure to Committee correspondence regarding the Department's response to Storm Chandra.

**Agreed:** To write to the Department for Infrastructure to seek a list of the partner organisations as referenced in the Minister's response and to highlight that, despite the major response plan being initiated, the Committee's concern related to the real time communications and how they were disseminated to elected representatives, resilience groups and the wider public.



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**Agreed:** To write to the Department for Infrastructure to ask whether resource or staffing constraints may impede the spending of the £2.5 million for road maintenance announced by the Minister.

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

- Response to Committee request for quarterly updates on the Translink Nightmover service;
- Response to Committee request for detail on work being undertaken by the Department to ensure the safety of pedestrians and cyclists, particularly to prevent road traffic accidents involving heavy good vehicles;
- Correspondence regarding the lack of signage along the footpaths of the Broughshane Rd, Ballymena; and
- Response to Committee request following evidence session on barriers faced by telecommunications in relation to planning.

**8. Budget - Budget Sustainability – Department for Infrastructure – Written Evidence**

The Committee considered a written submission from the Department for Infrastructure on its Five-Year Budget Sustainability Plan 2025-30.

**Agreed:** To schedule oral evidence from departmental officials at a suitable date in the Forward Work Programme.

**9. Spring Supplementary Estimates – Department for Infrastructure – Written Evidence**

The Committee considered written evidence from the Department for Infrastructure on Spring Supplementary Estimates (SSEs).



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Members noted the period of time that had elapsed between the accompanying memorandum being signed off and date of receipt by the Committee.

**Agreed:** To write to the Minister to seek an explanation for the late receipt of the SSEs memorandum on 18 February 2026 when taking into account this was electronically signed by the Permanent Secretary on 5 February 2026.

The Committee moved into closed session at 12:23 pm.

**10. Legal Advice - Practices of private car parking companies in relation to the recovering of unpaid car parking charges**

The Committee considered legal advice from Assembly Legal Services regarding the practices of private car parking operators.

The Committee moved into open session at 12:46 pm

**Agreed:** To write to the Department for Infrastructure to seek detail on what work it is undertaking to provide strengthened regulation of private car park operators in Northern Ireland.

**Agreed:** That the Clerk is to explore potential options with the Assembly's Research and Information Service on the scope for improvements within the existing planning system.



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**11. SL1 – The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Belfast) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Belfast) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** The Committee was content with the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

**12. SL1 – The Road Races (Croft Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Road Races (Croft Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** The Committee was content with the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

**13. SL1 – The Waiting Restrictions (Comber) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Waiting Restrictions (Comber) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** The Committee was content with the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

**14. SL1 – The Waiting Restrictions (Clogher) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Waiting Restrictions (Clogher) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.



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**Agreed:** The Committee was content with the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

**15. SL1 – The Waiting Restrictions (Coalisland) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Waiting Restrictions (Coalisland) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** The Committee was content with the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

**16. SL1 – The Road Races (Drumhorc Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Road Races (Drumhorc Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** To note receipt of the SL1 and proposed statutory rule, which will be published on the Committee’s webpages and a ‘Call for Views’ will be issued on Citizen Space.

**Agreed:** To consider the SL1, proposed statutory rule and any responses received at its meeting on 18 March 2026

**Agreed:** That evidence from departmental officials is not required at this stage

**17. SL1 – The Parking Places (Disabled Persons’ Vehicles) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Parking Places (Disabled Persons’ Vehicles) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.



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- Agreed:** To note receipt of the SL1 and proposed statutory rule, which will be published on the Committee's webpages and a 'Call for Views' will be issued on Citizen Space.
- Agreed:** To consider the SL1, proposed statutory rule and any responses received at its meeting on 25 March 2026
- Agreed:** That evidence from departmental officials is not required at this stage

**18. SL1 – The Motorways Traffic (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Motorways Traffic (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026.

- Agreed:** To note receipt of the SL1 and proposed statutory rule, which will be published on the Committee's webpages and a 'Call for Views' will be issued on Citizen Space.
- Agreed:** To give initial consideration to the statutory rule and any responses received at its meeting on 25 March 2026 to inform members on whether further evidence of consideration is required beyond the indicative date specified by the Department.

**19. SL1 – The Road Traffic (Amendment) (2016 Act) (Commencement No.4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Road Traffic (Amendment) (2016 Act) (Commencement No.4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

- Agreed:** To note receipt of the SL1 and proposed statutory rule, which will be published on the Committee's webpages and a 'Call for Views' will be issued on Citizen Space.
- Agreed:** To give initial consideration to the statutory rule and any responses received at its meeting on 25 March 2026 to inform members on



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whether further evidence of consideration is required beyond the indicative date specified by the Department.

**20. SL1 – The Motor Vehicles (Specified Restrictions) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Motor Vehicles (Specified Restrictions) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** To note receipt of the SL1 and proposed statutory rule, which will be published on the Committee’s webpages and a ‘Call for Views’ will be issued on Citizen Space.

**Agreed:** To give initial consideration to the statutory rule and any responses received at its meeting on 25 March 2026 to inform members on whether further evidence of consideration is required beyond the indicative date specified by the Department.

**21. SL1 – The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** To note receipt of the SL1 and proposed statutory rule, which will be published on the Committee’s webpages and a ‘Call for Views’ will be issued on Citizen Space.

**Agreed:** To give initial consideration to the statutory rule and any responses received at its meeting on 25 March 2026 to inform members on whether further evidence of consideration is required beyond the indicative date specified by the Department.

**Agreed:** To schedule oral evidence from departmental officials on each of the proposals for Statutory Rules in respect of Graduated Driver Licensing.



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**Agreed:** To issue a press release in respect of the proposals and to also publish on Committee social media.

**22. SR 2026-18 The On-Street Parking (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered the SR 2026-18 – The On-Street Parking (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** The Committee was content with the Statutory Rule.

**23. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee considered the draft Forward Work Programme.

**Agreed:** To proceed with the scheduled evidence as set out in the draft Forward Work Programme and to reflect to any changes agreed during the meeting.

**16. Any Other Business**

None.



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**17. Date, Time and Place of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 4 March 2026 at 10:00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 pm.

**Mr Peter Martin**  
**Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure**

**4 March 2026**