



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 1 JUNE 2016

### THE SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr William Humphrey (Chairperson)

Mr William Irwin MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Ms Kellie Armstrong MLA

Mr Paul Girvan MLA

Mr Declan McAleer MLA

Mr Eamonn McCann MLA

Mr Fra McCann MLA

Mr Daniel McCrossan MLA

Mr Justin McNulty MLA

Mrs Jenny Palmer MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Johnny Lawless (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Sharon Young (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: None.

*10:02 am The meeting opened in closed session.*

#### 1. Committee Protocols

The Committee considered a number of documents relating to protocols of a Statutory Committee.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to hold a Strategic Planning Day in September 2016.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note a paper on the outcomes of an effective Committee and deal with it at the strategic planning day.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward whistleblowing correspondence to the NI Audit Office, the Public Accounts Committee and the Permanent Secretary of the relevant Department.

*10:04 am Daniel McCrossan joined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to deal with correspondence and requests for meetings on a case by case basis until the Committee Strategic Planning day.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note a paper on its approach to preparation and questioning.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note its protocol on conduct and courtesy at Committee meetings.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the Committee twitter account and that Committee staff would update the account.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that meetings should, as a rule, be held in public session, unless the Committee agrees that there is an overriding reason for proceedings to be closed session.

*10:07 am The Committee moved into public session.*

*10:07 am Paul Girvan joined the meeting.*

## **2. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

## **3. Committee Membership**

Members noted the membership of the Committee for Infrastructure.

## **4. Staff Contact Details**

The Chairperson introduced the Committee Clerk and the Committee staff.

## **5. Declaration of Members Interests**

The Chairperson reminded members that the requirement to register their interests extended under Standing Order 69 (5) to the proceedings of the Committees.

*Ms Kellie Armstrong declared an interest as a past Director of the Community Transport Association.*

## **6. Committee Procedures**

The Committee considered a number of documents relating to protocols of a Statutory Committee.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note:

- Guide to the powers and operation of statutory committees for chairpersons and members.
- Guide to the role of the chairperson.
- Guide for members on the role and functions of the Committee Office.
- Providing an effective Research Service to Committees – Good Practice Guidelines.

## **7. Guidance on timescales for interaction between Committees and Departments**

The Committee considered the guidance paper on timescales for interaction between committees and departments.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the Guidance.

## **8. Committee Legacy Reports 2011-2016**

The Committee considered the Legacy Reports of a number of Committee from the previous mandate.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the issues raised in these papers and consider them at a Strategic Planning Day.

*Mrs Jenny Palmer declared an interest as a Board Member of Libraries NI.*

## **9. Subordinate Legislation**

The Committee considered the Guidance on Handling Subordinate Legislation.

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Infrastructure, under Standing Order 43, resolves to delegate to the Examiner of Statutory Rules any of its functions in relation to the technical scrutiny of the instrument.

The Committee further resolves that in carrying out this function the Examiner shall be authorised to report her technical findings on each statutory rule to the Assembly, and to the relevant Department, as well as to the Committee itself and to publish her report.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that there are 11 Statutory Rules laid in the last mandate to be considered by this Committee.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider the Statutory Rules at next week's meeting.

#### **10. Departmental First Day Brief – Written Briefing**

The Committee considered a Departmental written briefing paper.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to return to this briefing at next week's meeting.

#### **11. Assembly Research and Information Service Briefing – Structures and Issues for the Department for Infrastructure**

*10:14 am The research officer, Des McKibbin, joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr McKibbin.

*10:17 am The research officer, Suzie Cave joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Ms Cave.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the briefing paper to the Department for information and comment.

*10:39 am The research officers left the meeting.*

#### **12. Draft Forward Work Programme**

The Committee considered the draft Forward Work Programme for the period before summer recess.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content to schedule these briefings.

#### **13. Correspondence**

- The Committee considered a Department for Infrastructure public consultation document on the Review of Permitted Development Rights.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the consultation document.

- The Committee considered a note of the meeting of the Belfast Rapid Transport Stakeholder Forum on 4 May 2016.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Research Officer should continue to attend the Belfast Rapid Transport Stakeholder Forum meetings and report back to the Committee.

- The Committee considered correspondence from the Private Hire Coalition relating to public hire aspects in the Taxis Act

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to the Department for information and comment.

- The Committee considered an invitation to the Chairperson to meet with the Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly Business Trust.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

#### **14. Proposed Meeting Dates**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

#### **15. Any Other Business**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that Press Releases, News Releases and Statistical Bulletins should be emailed to Members when received and not included in Committee meeting packs.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to publish all Assembly Research and Information Service papers on the Committee webpage following consideration.

#### **16. Date, time and place of next meeting**

The Committee noted that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday, 8 June 2016 at 10:00 am in The Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*10:44 am The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.*

**Mr William Humphrey MLA**  
**Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure**

**8 June 2016**