



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY

RECORD OF DECISIONS

23 JUNE 2021

This Record of Decisions was made under:

Assembly Standing Order 115. Temporary provision for statutory committees

(1) This Standing Order contains temporary provisions relating to committees established under Standing Order 48, and supersedes paragraphs (3) - (6) of Standing Order 46 and paragraphs (5) and (7) of Standing Order 49.

(8) A committee may agree to make decisions (including a decision not to meet) without meeting.

The Committee for the Economy agreed that decisions on business items not addressed, due to time constraints, at its meeting on 23rd June 2021 would be dealt with via email correspondence.

(9) This paragraph applies where a committee has agreed, or proposes to make, a decision without meeting:

a) Before a decision is to be taken, the chairperson must:

(i) inform members of the subject matter of the decision;

(ii) provide members with such supporting information as the chairperson considers relevant;

(iii) allow a reasonable time for members to consider the subject matter and supporting information; and

seek consensus among members on the decision.

This Record of Decisions is made with reference to paragraphs (9) and (12) above and below.

(12) A general record of the proceedings of a committee shall be maintained by the Committee Clerk.

AGREEMENT WAS RECEIVED BY CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Dr Caoímhe Archibald (Chairperson)
Ms Sinéad McLaughlin (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Peter Weir
Mr Gary Middleton
Mr John O'Dowd
Mr Keith Buchanan
Mr Mike Nesbitt
Mr Stewart Dickson
Ms Claire Sugden

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed Members of a memo on the Informal meeting with the FE Colleges to discuss the Reform of Youth Training and the changes to programmes from September 2021.

Agreed: to ask for the NI Vocational Qualifications System paper commissioned by the Department from CCEA and referenced in the informal meeting with the colleges.

The Chairperson informed Members of correspondence from 'People 1st' in relation to concerns regarding the proposed changes to the provision of Youth Training in the Colin, Lisburn and Belfast areas.

Agreed: to forward this correspondence to the Department for a response on the issues raised.

The Chairperson informed Members of an invitation from the Women's Policy Group to the Relaunch of the Feminist Recovery Plan one year on Wednesday 28th July at 10am via zoom.

5. Matters Arising

Noted: Members noted a Departmental response to the Committee's request for further information following the oral briefing on the Review of level 4 and 5 and HE in FE.

Noted: Members noted a Departmental response regarding the European Social Fund Call 3 Match Funding.

Noted: Members noted a response from the Department regarding its input into the Competition and Market Authority consultation on its UKIM functions.

Noted: Members noted a Departmental response regarding correspondence from Belcoo Frack Free.

Noted: Members noted the Department's Monthly Economic Update for June 2021.

Noted: Members noted a copy of the Voluntary Code of Conduct for the hospitality industry provided by the Hospitality and Tourism Skills Network following their recent oral briefing.

Noted: Members noted a response from the DAERA Minister regarding the EnerChem proposal.

Agreed: to forward this response to EnerChem.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council regarding Project Stratum and concerns it has around the reduction of the intervention area.

Agreed: to ask the Department for an initial written response on the issues raised.

Agreed: to schedule a briefing from the Department in September on the roll out of Project Stratum.

Agreed: to ask NILGA for an update from across the Councils in advance of this briefing regarding roll-out across Council areas.

Noted: Members noted a copy of correspondence from the English language teaching sector regarding a Covid support scheme run by Councils in England for this sector.

Agreed: to forward to the Department for a response.

Noted: Members noted a response from Manufacturing NI to the Committee's letter asking for its perspective on the level of engagement with the sector around the Reform of Youth Training.

Agreed: to write to the Minister on this issue highlighting the issues raised by Manufacturing NI.

10. Correspondence

Noted: Members noted a copy of a report in relation to a 'Pact for Skills' involving organisations in the Aerospace industry.

Noted: Members noted a Departmental response to the Finance Committee regarding the UK Internal Market Act 2020 and the Protocol.

Noted: Members noted the CBI NI's latest Covid19 Working Group notes from its meeting of the 16th June 2021.

Noted: Members noted a copy of the Forty-second Report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules 2020 – 2021.

ENDS

Approved by the Chairperson via correspondence

Dr Caoímhe Archibald
Chairperson
Committee for the Economy

Date: 30th June 2021