Northern Ireland Assembly

Committee for Infrastructure

Minutes of Proceedings

4 November 2026

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

Present:	Mr Jonathan Buckley MLA (Chairperson) Mr John Stewart MLA (Deputy Chairperson) Mr Cathal Boylan MLA Mr Stephen Dunne MLA Mr Harry Harvey MLA Mr Andrew McMurray MLA Mr Peter McReynolds MLA
Apologies:	None
Via Video-Conferencing:	Mr Paul Boggs MLA Mr Justin McNulty 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) Ms Ally McNamara (Clerical Officer)

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

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1. Apologies

As above.

2. Declaration of Interests

None.

3. Chairperson's Business

None.

4. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 20 and 21 October 2026.

5. Matters Arising

None.

6. Correspondence

Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to the Committee's request for an updated timeline and associated milestones for the commencement and completion of work for the A5 project.

Agreed: To request an update on the A5 project once the Department has received the formal court order.

Departmental response to the Committee for Infrastructure's Report: 'Review of Planning: Regionally Significant Developments and Judicial Reviews'.

Agreed: To note the Department's response and await any response from the Department of Justice on aspects relating to judicial reviews.

Department for Infrastructure notification of intention to bring forward a targeted consultation on amendments to the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999 (C&U Regulations).

Agreed: To write to the Department to request a written update upon the conclusion of the targeted consultation.

Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs' Call for Evidence on the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Water Environment Bill.

Agreed: To write to the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs providing a nil response.

Committee for Finance correspondence providing the 2025-26 Public Expenditure Outturn and Forecast Outturn – September (R6) Position.

Agreed: To write to the Department to establish what impact, if any, the reduced forecast outturn for capital will have on planned road construction projects.

Committee for the Economy's Call for Evidence on the Credit Unions (Amendment) Bill.

Agreed: To write to the Committee for the Economy providing a nil response.

Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs correspondence on the condition of the weir at Newcastle, County Down.

Agreed: To write to the Department to request detail of the current ownership and status of the barrier and fish pass on the Shimna River and detail of any plans to remedy its disrepair.

Committee for Communities copy correspondence from Residents Against Incineration (RAIN) regarding waste incineration.

Agreed: To write to Clerk to the Committee for Communities to highlight the action taken in respect of correspondence received from Residents Against Incineration.

LCD Academy correspondence regarding Category B+E driving entitlements and the 2015 amendment to the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996.

Agreed: To write to the Department to ask why the reference to Category B was removed from Regulation 34(8) in 2015 as previously requested by the Committee.

Correspondence from Visual Artists Ireland enclosing its report on 'How Transport, Planning and Place Infrastructure Enable Cultural Value'.

Agreed: To write to Visual Artists Ireland to confirm that the Committee has considered the report and would be supportive of the view that cultural destinations and infrastructure is a relevant consideration when undertaking transport planning.

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

- Copy of the Northern Ireland Water Group Annual Report and Accounts 2025-2026;
- Department for Infrastructure response to the Committee's correspondence requesting a timeline for the introduction of legislation relating to Green Card changes;
- Department for Infrastructure update on the consultation on Everyday Active Travel: The Urban Delivery Plan (formerly the Active Travel Delivery Plan);
- Copy of the Department for Infrastructure's Business Plan for 2026-2027;
- Copy of the Department for Infrastructure response to the alleged change of use for waste storage at Warrenpoint Harbour;
- Copy of information provided to the Department of Finance regarding on-going projects;
- Department for Infrastructure notification of intention to launch a public consultation on the draft 'Moving Together: An Inclusive Mobility Framework';

- Copy of the Roads Western Division – Annual Report to Mid-Ulster District Council 2026-2027;
- Copy of the Roads Southern Division - Annual Report to Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council 2026-27;
- Copy of the Roads Eastern Division - Autumn Roads Report 2026 or the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council 2026-2027;
- Copy of correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure to the Committee for Communities regarding the Housing (Amendment) Bill;
- Copy correspondence from the Committee for Communities to the Department for Infrastructure following a briefing by the Wastewater Infrastructure Group;
- Correspondence from a member of the public regarding sewer flooding in Newtownards;
- Copy correspondence from a member of the public to the Consumer Council of Northern Ireland regarding Translink;
- Copy of the Department for Infrastructure Investing Activity Report – October 2026;
- Belfast Harbour Commissioners following its recent oral evidence on the Harbours Bill and extending an invitation to visit the Commissioner's Office;
- Correspondence from the House of Lords Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee regarding the European Delegated Regulations regarding environmental performance and emission requirements; and
- Correspondence from Residents Against Incineration (RAIN) requesting that the Committee to engage with other statutory committees regarding the issue of waste incineration.

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7. SL1 - The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Newtownabbey) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Formal Consideration

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

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

8. SL1 - The Taxis (Ballymoney) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Initial Consideration

The Committee considered SL1 - The Taxis (Ballymoney) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Agreed: To note receipt of the SL1 and the proposed Statutory Rule, which will be published as part of the call for views.

Agreed: That the SL1 will be considered at the meeting on 25 November 2026.

Agreed: That a briefing from officials is not required at this stage.

9. SL1 - The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Ballymoney) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Initial Consideration

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

Mr Andrew McMurrray left the meeting at 10:12 am.

Agreed: To note receipt of the SL1 and the proposed Statutory Rule, which will be published as part of the call for views.

Agreed: That the SL1 will be considered at the meeting on 25 November 2026.

Agreed: That a briefing from officials is not required at this stage.

10. SL1 - The Cycle Routes (Amendment No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Initial Consideration

The Committee considered SL1 - The Cycle Routes (Amendment No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Agreed: To note receipt of the SL1 and the proposed Statutory Rule, which will be published as part of the call for views.

Agreed: That the SL1 will be considered at the meeting on 25 November 2026.

Agreed: That a briefing from officials is not required at this stage.

11. Tree Protection Bill – Northern Ireland Electricity Networks and the Construction Employers Federation – Oral Evidence

The following representatives joined the meeting 10:16 am.

- Mr Con Feeney, National Programmes Director, Northern Ireland Electricity Networks;
- Mr Colm McKeown, Strategic Transformation Manager, Northern Ireland Electricity Networks; and
- Mr David Fry, Head of Public Affairs, Construction Employers Federation.

The Committee agreed that the evidence is recorded by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

Mr Peter McReynolds left the meeting at 11:04 am

The representatives left the meeting at 11:05 am.

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12. Harbours Bill – Department for Infrastructure – Oral Evidence

The following departmental officials joined the meeting 11:06 am.

- Sian Kerr, Director of Transport Planning and Policy, Department for Infrastructure;
- Adele Campbell, Head of Gateways Bill Team, Department for Infrastructure; and
- Royanne Kincaid, Gateways Bill Team, Department for Infrastructure.

The Committee agreed that the evidence is recorded by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

Mr Peter McReynolds re-joined the meeting at 11:17 am.

The departmental officials left the meeting at 11:33 pm.

Agreed: That the Committee writes to the DSO urging a priority is given to Harbour Orders.

Agreed: To write to the Department for a timetable for the introduction of the Harbour Orders in conjunction with the passage of the Bill.

13. Display of Flags and Emblems Bill – Department for Infrastructure – Oral Evidence

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting 11:35 am.

- Mark McPeak, Acting Director, Road Asset Management, TRAM Group, Department for Infrastructure; and
- Graeme Belshaw, Organisation Design and Improvement, TRAM Group, Department for Infrastructure.

The Committee agreed that the evidence is recorded by Hansard.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a summary of responses to the initial call for evidence to the Department for information.

A question and answer session followed.

The departmental officials left the meeting at 12:45 pm.

The Chairperson highlighted to Members that, following the Committee's motion to extend the Committee stage of the Bill to 19 February 2027 was negatived during the plenary on Monday, the Committee stage scrutiny of the Bill would end on Tuesday, 10 November as set out under the requirements of Standing Order 33(2).

Mr McMurray proposed *'that the Committee for Infrastructure tables a motion seeking to extend the Committee stage of the Display of Flags and Emblems Bill to 29 January 2027'*.

Mr McNulty proposed an amendment seeking to extend the Committee stage to 12 February 2027.

The question was put on the amendment *'that the Committee for Infrastructure tables a motion seeking to extend the Committee stage of the Display of Flags and Emblems Bill to 12 February 2027'*.

The Committee divided: Ayes: 5; Noes: 4.

Ayes: Jonathan Buckley, John Stewart, Stephen Dunne, Harry Harvey, Justin McNulty.

Noes: Paul Boggs, Cathal Boylan, Andrew McMurray, Peter McReynolds.

The amendment to the proposal was agreed.

The question was put *'that the Committee for Infrastructure tables a motion to extend the Committee stage of the Display of Flags and Emblems Bill to 12 February 2027, as amended'*.

The Committee divided: Ayes: 5; Noes: 4.

Ayes: Jonathan Buckley, John Stewart, Stephen Dunne, Harry Harvey, Justin McNulty.

Noes: Paul Boggs, Cathal Boylan, Andrew McMurray, Peter McReynolds

The motion was carried.

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14. 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.

15. Any Other Business

None.

16. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, 10 November 2026 at 2:00 pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm.

Mr Jonathan Buckley
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure

11 November 2026