



COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

12 MAY 2015

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10.00AM

Present:

Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
Mr Steven Agnew
Mr Gordon Dunne
Ms Megan Fearon
Mr Paul Frew
Mr Paul Givan
Mr William Humphrey
Mr Danny Kinahan
Mr Fearghal McKinney

In Attendance:

Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Nathan McVeigh (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Christopher Jeffrey (Clerical Officer)
Mr Peadar Ó Lamhna (Bursary Student)

Apologies:

Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)

*The meeting began in public session at 10:15am
Members began with Agenda Item Number 4*

4. Oral Briefing from the Confederation of British Industry: Inquiry into Economic Growth and Job Creation in a Reduced Tax Environment

The Officials joined the meeting at 10:15am

Members received a briefing from Mr Nigel Smyth, Director, CBI, Mr David Gavaghan, Vice-Chair, CBI and Mr David Fry, Senior Policy Advisor, CBI.

Danny Kinahan joined the meeting at 10:19am

Steven Agnew joined the meeting at 10:21am

William Humphrey left the meeting at 11:19am

Danny Kinahan left the meeting at 11:31am

Key issues discussed included: strategic and policy challenges to the Northern Ireland economy, smart targets, corporation tax as a transformative tool, job creation, employment regulation, procurement, education, skills, infrastructure, Shared Future, Programme for Government, employability of young people, business and education links, population growth and urbanisation.

The Representatives left the meeting at 11:42am

Paul Frew left the meeting at 11:42am

Agreed: members agreed to ask for a written submission from the Department for Regional Development on how Transport NI's strategy is geared towards the economy.

Agreed: members agreed to ask for a written submission from the Department of the Environment on how area planning can contribute towards economic development and how planning policy has improved to support business development.

5. Oral Briefing from DETI and Invest NI : Update on ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme.

The Representatives joined the meeting at 11:44am

Paul Frew re-joined the meeting at 11:46am

Members received a briefing from Mr Paul Brush, Head of European Support, DETI, Mr Charles Hamilton, Head of EU Programmes, Invest NI, Ms Carol Keery, Director of Business Performance, EU and Risk Management, Invest NI and Mr William McCulla, Director of Corporate Finance and Property Solutions, Invest NI.

Key issues discussed included: plans for the launch, implementation and development of the Programme, proposed visit by the EU Commissioner, a proposed information session, provision of capital for SMEs, a local government strand for small and micro businesses, design service for businesses and the grid.

Agreed: to include the Departmental paper in evidence for the Committee's Inquiry into Economic Growth and Job Creation in a Reduced Tax Environment.

Fearghal McKinney left the meeting at 11:46 am
Megan Fearon joined the meeting at 12:06 pm

The representatives left the meeting at 12:22pm

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Draft Minutes of Meeting of 28 April 2015

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 28 April 2015.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson congratulated Mr Danny Kinahan on his election as Member of Parliament for South Antrim at the recent Westminster Election.

The Committee noted the appointment of Jonathan Bell MLA as the new Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

Agreed: to write to the outgoing Minister Arlene Foster MLA to thank her for her work as Minister and congratulate her on her appointment as Minister of Finance and Personnel.

Agreed: the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to meet with the incoming Minister

Agreed: the incoming Minister to provide an oral briefing to the Committee.

Members discussed correspondence from the Consumer Council NI requesting the postponement of the roundtable event on bank closures, to be held concurrently with the Committee for Finance and Personnel.

Agreed: members are content with the proposal to postpone the event.

6. Matters Arising

Members considered a Departmental response to the Committee's queries in respect of The Moyle Interconnector.

Agreed: the Committee will consider the response again when it receives details from the Utility Regulator of the review it carried out into Mutual Energy.

Members noted correspondence from the Utility Regulator providing the list of schemes approved for the 2015-16 Northern Ireland Energy Programme (NISEP).

7. Legislation: SR 2015/223 the Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Repeals, Revocations and Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Members considered SR 2015/223 the Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Repeals, Revocations and Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Question put and agreed: that the Committee for Enterprise, Trade has considered SR 2015/223 The Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Repeals, Revocations and Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rule's Report, has no objection to the Rule.

8. Written Briefing from DETI: Programme for Government 2011-2015 – Department Delivery Plans Progress at 31 March 2015

Members noted a Departmental paper on Programme for Government Delivery Plans Progress at 31 March 2015.

Agreed: to include the paper in evidence for the Committee's Inquiry into Economic Growth and Job Creation in a Reduced Tax Environment.

9. Written Briefing from DETI: Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland Operating Plan 2015-16

Members noted a Departmental briefing regarding the Health and Safety Executive's Operating Plan 2015-16.

10. Consultation: EU Target Model – Integrated Single Electricity Market

Members considered the Consultation Paper on the Integrated Single Electricity Market

Agreed: the Committee to receive a Summary of Responses following consultation.

11. Consultation: Continuing to Connect Telecoms 2015-2017

Members considered the Consultation Paper on Continuing to Connect Telecoms 2015-2017

Agreed: the Committee to receive a Summary of Responses following consultation.

Paul Frew left the meeting at 12:25pm

12. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence;

- i. Correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the Monitoring of Departmental Savings Delivery Plans 2014-15.

Agreed: to keep a watching brief on the implications of the reductions for InterTradeIreland.

- ii. Correspondence from Invest NI regarding the Invest NI Annual International Conference and Stakeholder Event.

Agreed: members who have not yet confirmed their attendance to contact the Committee Office as soon as possible.

- iii. A Thank You letter from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions with regards hosting the Workers Memorial Day in Parliament Buildings.

- iv. Correspondence from Queen's University Belfast regarding the Northern Ireland European Entrepreneurial Region Award Breakfast.

Agreed: members to contact the Committee Office if they wish to attend.

- v. Correspondence from the Adman Civil Projects Ltd and NIRIG to the Deputy Chairperson regarding Contracts for Difference.

Agreed: to forward to the Department for comment.

13. Forward Work Programme

Members considered a revised Forward Work Programme until the end of the current session.

Agreed: members agreed the FWP including that Tourism NI brief the Committee on the Events Funding Programme on 26 May 2015 and Tourism NI and NISRA brief the Committee on Tourism Statistics and Accommodation Policy (Tourism NI only) on 2 June 2015.

14. Any Other Business

Members considered issues relating to the roll out of broadband.

Agreed: to seek a written briefing from the Department and BT on broadband rollout.

15. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Tuesday 19 May 2015** at **10.00am** in **Room 29, Parliament Buildings.**

The meeting concluded at 12:30pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

19 May 2015