



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2016 ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present:	Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson) Mr Danny Kennedy (Deputy Chairperson) Mr Cathal Boylan Mrs Pam Cameron Mr William Irwin Mr Phillip Logan Mr Philip McGuigan Mr Christopher Stalford
Apologies:	Mr Stewart Dickson Mr Seán Lynch Mr Richie McPhillips
In Attendance:	Mrs Kathy O'Hanlon (Committee Clerk) Miss Karen Jardine (Assistant Assembly Clerk) Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor) Mrs Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)

The meeting began in public session at 2.03pm.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Chair's Business

House of Lords – EU Committee

The Chairperson thanked members for their attendance at lunch with the House of Lords EU Committee on Monday 17 October.

Deputy Chairperson's visit to China

The Committee noted the relevant costs for the proposed visit by the Deputy Chairperson to China in conjunction with the NI Assembly and Business Trust at the end of October. Members noted that a separate meeting has been arranged between the Deputy Chairperson and the Director of the NI Bureau in Beijing to discuss matters relating specifically to the Committee; and that the Deputy Chair will report back to the Committee on his return.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the travel proposal and the proposed costings.

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

The Committee noted an invitation from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission to the launch of their Annual Statement which is to take place in the Long Gallery on Thursday 8 December.

Committee invitations

The Committee noted the current list of Committee invitations.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of 11 October 2016 were agreed by the Committee.

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of 12 October 2016 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

Programme for Government 2016-21/Outcomes-based Accountability

The Committee considered the actions it had taken to date in relation to its consideration of the outcomes-based accountability approach to government and the draft Programme for Government 2016-21.

Mr Logan joined the meeting at 2.06pm.

Mrs Cameron joined the meeting at 2.07pm.

The Committee noted that it had previously drawn the attention of the other statutory committees to the proposed timescales for consideration of the draft PfG, based on an 8-week consultation being completed by the end of November and the PfG finalised by the end of the calendar year. Members noted that, as the draft PfG has not yet been published, it is now likely that the consultation period will run into Christmas recess, thereby impacting on the Committee's ability to produce a co-ordinated report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the matter of a co-ordinated response to the draft PfG and departmental delivery plans should be raised by the Chairperson at the next meeting of the Chairpersons' Liaison Group.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the other statutory committees to request information on their plans for engagement with stakeholders on the draft PfG and departmental delivery plans; and the impact that the delay in issuing the draft PfG for consultation has had on work programmes, including any planned stakeholder engagement.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Executive Office which provided details of the stakeholders with which it had engaged in the development of the draft PfG and associated departmental delivery plans.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for staff to identify relevant stakeholders which may be contacted for comment once the Executive Office plans are available; and to request written submissions on the draft PfG and departmental delivery plans by means of a template response.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to provide TEO arms-length bodies with an opportunity to provide an oral briefing on the draft PfG and departmental delivery plans when available.

The Committee noted a response from the Executive Office which confirmed that the Commission for Victims and Survivors did request the inclusion of an additional outcome focused on addressing the legacy of the past; and which provided information on the number of people who participated in the public consultation events on the draft PfG Framework.

Outstanding Committee Correspondence

The Committee noted the current list of outstanding correspondence from the Executive Office.

5. Equality and Good Relations – Together: Building a United Community & Good Relations Indicators September 2016

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.17pm.

Dr Mark Browne, Director of Strategic Policy, Equality and Good Relations; Mrs Grainne Killen, Acting Head of Good Relations and T:BUC Division; and Ms Donna Blaney, United Communities Policy, provided an update on Together: Building a United Community, including the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister Inquiry report on Building a United Community; and on the Good Relations Indicators Report for 2016.

A question and answer session followed. The session was recorded by Hansard.

Officials agreed to provide further information on the funding available for the headline action relation to Shared Education Campuses, including that made available through the Stormont House and Fresh Start Agreements; detail on the process of engagement between the Department of Education and the UK Government in identifying schools to participate in the scheme; further information on how individuals and organisations can access funding and support for the Cross Community Youth Sports Programme; and clarify how a ‘shared neighbourhood’ is defined.

Mr Irwin left the meeting at 3.51pm.

Mr Stalford left the meeting at 3.52pm.

Mrs Killen and Ms Blaney left the meeting at 3.53pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to remind statutory committees of the Committee for OFMDFM Inquiry recommendation that committees make it core business to include good relations as part of their regular scrutiny of departmental activity, including the monitoring of T:BUC headline actions where departments have responsibility for delivery; and to advise of the Executive Office’s intention to publish an Annual Report on T:BUC and to schedule a Take Note debate on the report.

The meeting was suspended at 3.54pm.

The meeting resumed at 3.56pm.

Dr Browne agreed to provide an update on progress against the Committee for OFMDFM’s recommendations on its Inquiry into Building a United Community, in light of changing circumstances.

6. Executive Office Budget 2017-18

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.56pm.

Dr Mark Browne, Director of Strategic Policy, Equality and Good Relations was joined by Mr Peter Toogood, Head of Finance and Corporate Services, and Ms Sinead McCartan, Head of Finance to discuss matters relating to Budget 2017-18.

Mr McGuigan returned to the meeting at 3.57pm.

A question and answer session followed. The session was recorded by Hansard.

Mr Stalford returned to the meeting at 4.02pm.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 4.26pm.

Mr Stalford left the meeting at 4.26pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask staff to prepare a submission to the Committee for Finance on Budget 2017-18 for members' consideration at the next meeting.

7. Correspondence

Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission

The Committee noted the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission Annual Report and Accounts for 2015-16.

Ilex Urban Regeneration Company Ltd

The Committee noted the Ilex Urban Regeneration Company Ltd Annual Report and Accounts 2015-16.

Committee for the Economy

The Committee noted copy correspondence from the Committee for the Economy to the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding Credit Unions and Corporation Tax.

Minority Ethnic Development Fund

The Committee noted a response from the Executive Office which provided background information to the Minority Ethnic Development Fund.

The Committee also noted correspondence from Diversiton Ltd regarding the Minority Ethnic Development Fund, and expressing concern about the department's pre-verification procedures.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward correspondence from Diversiton Ltd to the Executive Office for comment.

Committee on Procedures

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee on Procedures regarding the possible introduction of an e-petition facility to the NI Assembly.

Committee for Education

The Committee noted copy correspondence from the Committee for Education to the Executive Office regarding the delayed publication of the Investigating Links in Achievement and Deprivation Report.

8. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme until December 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to bring forward the briefing from the NI Public Services Ombudsman on the implementation of the NIPSO legislation to Wednesday 26 October.

9. Any Other Business

The Clerk advised members that Mr Irwin wished for his apologies to be recorded in the minutes for Wednesday 12 October, as he had arrived once the meeting had concluded.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to amend the minutes.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held at 2pm in Room 30 on Wednesday 26 October 2016.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.30pm.

Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA
Chairperson
Committee for the Executive Office