



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2016 ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

- Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron
Mr Stewart Dickson
Mr William Irwin
Mr Phillip Logan
Mr Philip McGuigan
Mr Richie McPhillips
Mr Christopher Stalford
- Apologies: Mr Danny Kennedy (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Cathal Boylan
Mr Seán Lynch
- 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 2.00pm.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Chair's Business

President of Colombia visit

The Chairperson advised that he had accepted an invitation from Invest NI to attend lunch with the President of Columbia on Thursday 3 November.

Committee invitations

The Committee noted the current list of Committee invitations.

Mr Stalford and Mr Irwin joined the meeting at 2.02pm.

3. Draft Minutes

Mr McGuigan proposed an amendment to the draft minutes.

Mr Logan left the meeting at 2.02pm.

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of 19 October 2016 were agreed by the Committee as amended.

Mr Logan returned to the meeting at 2.04pm.

4. Matters Arising

Programme for Government 2016-21

The Committee noted the response from the First Minister and deputy First Minister accepting the invitation to brief the Committee on the draft Programme for Government once it is published for consultation. The Chairperson advised that it may be necessary to hold an additional Committee meeting in November to accommodate this briefing.

Ms Cameron joined the meeting at 2.07pm.

The Committee considered draft letters requesting the views of statutory committees and key Executive Office stakeholders on the draft PfG, to be issued when the document is published for consultation. Members noted that the letters had been prepared based on the draft Framework and may need to be amended to reflect any changes to outcomes, indicators and measures in the draft PfG.

The Committee also noted draft lists of stakeholders in relation to the draft indicators which pertain to the Executive Office.

Agreed: the Clerk will discuss engagement with the Loyal Orders and other organisations in respect to the indicator on Shared Space with the Clerk to the Committee for Communities Members also agreed to provide additional suggestions for stakeholders to Committee staff by noon on Friday 28 October.

Agreed: to issue the letters to stakeholders and statutory committees once the draft PfG has been published, with amendments to outcomes, indicators and measures relevant to TEO as appropriate.

Agreed: to publish the request for submissions and response template on its website to allow others to respond.

Agreed: to seek a briefing from the Strategic Investment Board.

The Committee considered a timetable for consideration of the PfG and discussed the proposed content of the co-ordinated report.

Agreed: the report will include a factual preface on the outcomes-based approach to government and a compilation of responses from statutory committees, including an assessment of the TEO commitments within the PfG.

Budget 2017-18

The Chairperson advised that the Budget 2017-18 process will be discussed by the Committee for Finance this week following which further information will issue to statutory committees. Members noted it was no longer necessary to make a submission to that Committee on Budget 2017-18 at this stage.

Outstanding Committee Correspondence

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

5. Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman

Representatives from the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman's office joined the meeting at 2.23pm.

Ms Marie Anderson, NI Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO), and Mr Paul McFadden, Deputy Ombudsman, briefed the Committee on the progress that has been made to date on the implementation of the NIPSO legislation.

A question and answer session followed.

Mr Dickson declared an interest as a member of the Assembly Commission.

Ms Anderson and Mr McFadden left the meeting at 3.27pm.

6. Subordinate Legislation: SL1 - Draft Departments (Transfer of Functions) (No. 2) Order (NI) 2016

The Committee considered a proposal for a draft Transfer of Functions Order to transfer a further small number of functions between Departments.

Agreed: to seek the views of the Committee for Communities, Committee for Infrastructure and the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs on the proposal for the Order.

7. UK Exit from EU

The Committee noted details of research commissioned by other statutory committees in respect of the decision of the UK to withdraw from the European Union.

Agreed: that staff will examine the options for a visit to Brussels in early 2017 to: meet with the Office of the NI Executive in Brussels; Northern Ireland's MEPs; and to gain an understanding of how countries which are not part of the EU engage with the relevant structures and bodies in Brussels.

The Committee noted correspondence from Lord Boswell, Chairman of the House of Lords EU Committee, expressing thanks for assistance with that Committee's recent visit to the NI Assembly. Lord Boswell indicated that the Committee's report on the Inquiry into Brexit: UK-Irish Relations should be available before Christmas.

The Committee noted the statement by the First Minister and deputy First Minister following the meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee on Monday 24 October.

8. Correspondence

Historical Institutional Abuse Small Grant Scheme for Social Support

The Committee noted a response from the Executive Office providing detail on the Historical Institutional Abuse Small Grant Scheme.

Mr Logan left the meeting at 3.34pm.

Appointments to Public Bodies

Members noted responses from the Executive Office to the Committee and the Committee for Communities regarding appointments to public bodies.

Agreed: to invite the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland and the relevant TEO officials to brief the Committee on matters relating to appointments to public bodies.

Executive Press Secretary

The Committee noted a response from the Executive Office regarding the appointment of a new Executive Press Secretary.

9. Forward Work Programme

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

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Mr Logan returned to the meeting at 3.35pm.

11. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held at 2pm in Room 30 on Wednesday 9 November 2016.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.36 pm.

Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA

Chairperson

Committee for the Executive Office