

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 12 JUNE 2013
ROOM 3.08 MANAGEMENT SUITE, NORTH WEST REGIONAL
COLLEGE

Present: Mr Daithí McKay MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Dominic Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson).
Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA
Mr Paul Girvan MLA
Mr John McCallister MLA
Mr Mitchel McLaughlin MLA
Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA

In Attendance: Mr Shane McAteer (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Phil Pateman (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jim Nulty (Clerical Supervisor)

Apologies: Mr Leslie Cree MBE MLA
Ms Megan Fearon MLA
Mr David McIlveen MLA
Me Peter Weir MLA

The meeting opened at 10:24 am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

Agreed: that agenda items 7, 8 and 9 are covered by Hansard and the Official Record published on the Assembly's website.

2. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 5 June 2013

Agreed: that the minutes are published on the Assembly website.

3. Matters Arising

Table of Requests for Information from the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP)

The Committee noted the table of requests for information from DFP which provided an update on any matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Financial Forecast Data

Having considered the departmental financial forecast outturn data for 2012-13, which had been received from DFP, the Committee noted that the other statutory committees may find this information beneficial in undertaking scrutiny at a departmental level.

Agreed: to forward the DFP paper and all future financial forecast data to the relevant statutory committees for information.

4. Public Service Pensions Bill – Pre-introductory written briefing from DFP

The Committee noted pre-introductory written briefing from DFP on the forthcoming Public Service Pensions Bill, due to be introduced to the Assembly on 17 June 2013.

Agreed: that the briefing papers are copied to the relevant statutory committees for information, given the cross-cutting nature of the Bill.

Agreed: that the Committee will consider the options relating to a macroeconomic appraisal of the policy aims of the Bill at its meeting on 19 June 2013.

5. Financial Provisions Bill – Pre-introductory written briefing from DFP

The Committee noted pre-introductory written briefing from DFP on the forthcoming Financial Provisions Bill, due to be introduced to the Assembly on 17 June 2013.

6. Legislative Consent Motion: Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill – Formal consideration of Committee Report

Members considered the Committee's draft report on a paragraph-by-paragraph basis, as follows:

Agreed: that paragraphs 1 – 17 stand part of the Report;

Agreed: that paragraph 18, as amended, stands part of the Report;

Agreed: that paragraph 19 stands part of the Report;

Agreed: that paragraph 20, as amended, stands part of the Report;

Agreed: that paragraphs 21 – 26 stand part of the Report;

Agreed: that paragraph 27, as amended, stands part of the Report;

Agreed: that paragraphs 28 – 31 stand part of the Report;

Agreed: that paragraph 32, as amended, stands part of the Report;

Agreed: that paragraphs 33 – 35 stand part of the Report;

Agreed: to insert an additional paragraph to stand part of the Report, which will read as follows:

“The Committee considers that, given the cross-cutting issues identified in the evidence, the Executive should undertake a review of the practical and legal implications of the policy of the LCM within three years of implementation.”

Agreed: that paragraph 36 stands part of the Report;

Agreed: that the Appendices stand part of the Report;

Agreed: that the Report on the Legislative Consent Motion: Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill be the Third Report of the Committee for Finance and Personnel to the Assembly for session 2012/13.

Agreed: that, following proofreading and copy editing, the report be laid in the Business Office in order to comply with the required timescales as set out at 42A (7) of Standing Orders.

Agreed: that the Committee Report, as amended, on the proposed Legislative Consent Motion: Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill is made to the Assembly.

Members noted that the agreed report would be issued to DFP, circulated to all MLAs and published on the Committee website at the earliest opportunity.

7– 9. PEACE and INTERREG Funding: Evaluations 2007-13 and Future Programmes 2014-2020 – Evidence from DFP and SEUPB

The Committee was briefed by the following representatives: Maura Young, EU Division, Central Finance Group (CFG), DFP; Frank Duffy, EU Division, CFG, DFP; Pat Colgan, Chief Executive, Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB); and Gina McIntyre, SEUPB. The session was recorded by Hansard.

Mrs Cochrane and Mr McAlister joined the meeting at 11:06 am.

Mr McQuillan left the meeting at 11:10 am and re-joined at 11:12 am.

Mr Girvan left the meeting at 11:49 am and re-joined the meeting at 12:00 pm.

Mr McLaughlin left the meeting at 11:54 am and re-joined at 11:59 am.

Agreed: that the DFP and SEUPB officials will provide an overview paper comparing timescales for processing project funding applications in Northern Ireland and elsewhere, the reasons for differences, and options for improving the position in Northern Ireland in respect of future programmes .

Agreed: that SEUPB will provide details of the 15 projects selected as standalone case studies in respect of the mid-term evaluation of PEACE III.

Agreed: that the DFP and SEUPB officials will provide follow up information on other issues identified during the evidence session.

Agreed: that the DFP and SEUPB briefing papers and the Official Report of today's oral evidence will be copied to the other applicable statutory committees for information.

10. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

- DFP: Response regarding Rating Debt
- Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment (CETI): Knowledge Economy Index Report
- CETI: Email requesting detail of the new Public Procurement Directive;
- Email from member of public regarding Equal Pay;
- Email from member of public regarding misuse of Public Funds by NI Civil Service Departments;

Agreed: to issue a response to the author of the letter setting out the Committee's position.

- Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA): Response regarding Stormont Estate Security Guards.

Mr McLaughlin left the meeting at 12:14 pm.

11. Committee Work Programme

The Committee considered a draft of the Committee work programme.

Agreed: that the draft Committee Work Programme is amended to reflect any decisions made today and published on the Committee's website.

12. Any Other Business

Intelligent Systems Science Festival 2013

The Committee noted a flyer on the Intelligent Systems Science Festival 2013.

13. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held on Wednesday 19 June 2013 at 10:00 am in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:15 pm.

Mr Daithí McKay MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Finance and Personnel
19 June 2013