

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Daithí McKay MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Dominic Bradley (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Michaela Boyle MLA
Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA
Mr Leslie Cree MBE, MLA
Mr Paul Girvan MLA
Mr Ian McCrea MLA
Mr Mitchel McLaughlin MLA
Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA
Mr Peter Weir MLA

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

Apologies: Mr John McCallister MLA

The meeting commenced at 10:05 am in public session.

Agreed: that agenda items 4, 5, 6 and 7 are recorded by Hansard and the Official Report published on the Assembly's website.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 15 January 2014

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

4. Rate Rebate Replacement Scheme – Evidence session from DFP

The Committee received evidence on the above from the following departmental officials:

- Brian McClure, Head of Rating Policy Division
- Roisin McRory, Rating Policy Division

The session was recorded by Hansard.

Mitchel McLaughlin joined the meeting at 10:07am.

Paul Girvan joined the meeting at 10:20am.

Peter Weir left the meeting at 10:27am.

Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 10:34am.

Agreed: that the DFP officials will provide a follow up paper on the pros and cons of the various options under consideration and in light of the further consultation which had taken place.

Agreed: that the DFP officials will provide a further briefing in March on the proposed way forward on the matter.

Agreed: to copy the DFP paper to the Committee for Social Development given the cross-cutting nature of the issues.

5. RPA- Rates Convergence and Proposed Funding Mechanism for Transferring Functions – Evidence session from DFP

The Committee received evidence on the above from the following departmental officials:

- Brian McClure, Head of Rating Policy Division
- Andrew McAvoy, Rating Policy Division

Adrian McQuillan left the meeting at 10:59am.

The session was recorded by Hansard.

6. Financial Provisions Bill – Proposed Amendment

The Committee was briefed on a further proposed amendment to the Financial Provisions Bill by the following DFP official:

- Brian McClure, Head of Rating Policy Division

Peter Weir left the meeting at 11:12am.

Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 11:15am.

Judith Cochrane joined the meeting at 11:15am.

Adrian McQuillan re-joined the meeting at 11:20am.

Ian McCrea left the meeting at 11:28am.

The session was recorded by Hansard.

7. Outcome of January Monitoring – Evidence session from DFP

The Committee received evidence on the above from the following departmental officials

- Peter Jakobsen - Central Expenditure Division
- Brigitte Worth – Finance Director
- Stephen Barrett – Central Expenditure Division

The session was recorded by Hansard.

Agreed: to commission a research paper on Financial Transactions Capital from the Assembly's Research and Information Service.

8. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

- DFP: Flexible Working Inquiry;
- DFP: Monitoring of Departmental Savings Delivery Plans to September 2013;
Agreed: to forward the DFP correspondence to the other statutory committees for information and scrutiny as applicable.
- DFP: Outturn and Forecast Outturn tables for the month of November 2013;
- Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister: Barroso Task Force Desk Officers' Report: July – September 2013; and
- Carnegie UK Trust – Press Release on Measuring Wellbeing.

9. Committee Work Programme

Members considered a draft of the Committee work programme.

Agreed: that any stakeholder submissions received on the Legal Complaints and Regulation Bill will be published on the Committee's website.

Agreed: that the work programme is updated to reflect any agreements made today and published on the Committee's website

10. Any other business

There was no other business.

11. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held on Wednesday 29 January 2014 at 10:00am in Law Society House, 96 Victoria Street, Belfast.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:31 am

**Mr Daithí McKay MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Finance and Personnel
29 January 2014**