

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 29 JUNE 2016
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mrs Emma Little Pengelly (Chairperson)
Ms Claire Hanna (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Jim Allister MLA
Mr Jonathan Bell MLA
Mr Paul Girvan MLA
Mr Gerry Mullan MLA
Mr John O'Dowd MLA
Ms Caitríona Ruane MLA
Mr Philip Smith MLA
Mr Jim Wells MLA

In Attendance:	Mr Jim McManus	(Assembly Clerk)
	Ms Kate McCullough	(Assistant Assembly Clerk)
	Mr Phil Pateman	(Assistant Assembly Clerk)
	Mr Joe Westland	(Clerical Supervisor)
	Miss Heather Graham	(Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

Agreed: the meeting commenced at 2:05pm in closed session for items 1 and 2 on the agenda.

1. Legal Guidance from the Directorate of Legal and Governance Services.

Members received legal advice in relation to the Sale of the National Assets Management Agency loan portfolio in Northern Ireland.

Jonathan Bell joined the meeting at 2:07pm

2. Sale of National Asset Management Agency assets in NI

Members were informed that the informal and private meeting with NCA officials will take place on Monday, 11 July at 12:00 noon in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

Agreed: The Committee agreed an outline of issues to discuss at the informal and private meeting with the NCA on 11 July.

Agreed: Legal advice will be delivered to members the day before a meeting and returned by the Member to secretariat staff following the meeting. Where issues arise which are sensitive then a time will be agreed for members to read the information.

Agreed: To liaise with the Committee and Members' Support Office to seek advice on the procedure regarding this matter.

Caitríona Ruane left the meeting at 3:01pm

Agreed: To write to Daithí McKay MLA in relation to his correspondence to the Committee.

Gerry Mullen left the meeting at 3:06pm

Agreed: To receive from the Department any minutes produced for the meeting of 12 November 2009.

Gerry Mullen rejoined the meeting at 3:10pm

Catriona Ruane rejoined the meeting at 3:18pm

Agreed: To email Members with time, date and location of informal and private meeting with the NCA and to get confirmation of attendance.

The Committee moved into public session at 3:20pm for the remainder of the meeting.

3. Apologies

There were no apologies.

4. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 22 June 2016

Agreed: that the minutes will be published on the Assembly website.

5. Matters Arising

Previous Expert Witnesses called to give Evidence on the Budget

Agreed: to consider further at agenda item 8.

Meeting with DoF Officials on Memorandum of Understanding

Agreed: To receive all contingency briefings provided to the Minister before the UK EU Referendum.

Agreed: To receive written briefings from the Department on the issues under consideration following the result of the UK Referendum.

Table of Requests for Information from DoF

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

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3:44 for the following item of business.

6. Overview of the work of the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) – Briefing from the Department of Finance.

Members received oral evidence on the work of the Central Procurement Directorate from the following departmental officials:

- Des Armstrong – Chief Executive, CPD
- Gareth Johnston – Director of Policy and Performance, CPD

Agreed: To receive an assessment from the Department of when it anticipates it will be in a position to provide a detailed briefing on the potential impacts on CPD of the decision to leave the EU.

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 4:35 for the following item of business.

7. Overview of the work of the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) Briefing DoF and SEUPB

Members received oral evidence on the work of the Central Procurement Directorate from the following departmental officials:

- Gina McIntyre, Chief Executive, SEUPB;
- Frank Duffy, Head of EU Division;
- Ryan Bartlett, acting Head of EUD Structural Funds Management Team;
- Brenda Hegarty, Programme Manager, SEUPB

This session was recorded by Hansard.

Agreed: To receive from the Department an assessment of when it anticipates it will be in a position to provide a detailed briefing on the potential impacts of the decision to leave the EU.

Agreed: to receive detail from the Department of projects under the Peace IV fund, a summary of the departmental contributions to these projects and an assessment of the future of SEUPB as a result of the decision to leave.

Jim Allister left the meeting at 5:32pm
Claire Hanna left the meeting at 5:32pm

Agreed: To forward the transcript of this evidence session to other relevant Committees for information.

8. Potential overarching areas of interest that relate to public finance in general and to the budget – Written Briefing from (RaISe)

Members noted the Research paper provided.

Agreed: to hold an informal meeting on 11 July 2016 to consider this agenda item.

9. Correspondence

The Committee considered the following correspondence:

- Committee for the Executive Office - Programme for Government Timetable.

Agreed: To receive from the Department written briefings relating to the Programme for Government and Budget 2017-20. This should include copies of the baseline/restructured baseline position, identified pressures, spending priorities, proposed efficiencies and linkages to the draft Programme for Government (this will inform both the Committee's return to the Committee for the Executive Office and the Department's oral evidence session on 15 September).

The Committee noted the following correspondence:

- Committee for the Executive Office Consultation Events – Draft Programme for Government Framework.
- Department of Finance Proposed changes to the Building Regulations (NI) 2012.
- Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Confirming attendance on 21 September.
- Department of Finance Follow up from Public Expenditure Overview – 2016-17 DEL Receipts.
- Catalyst NI New phase of development.

10. Committee Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider this agenda item on 11 July 2016.

11. Any Other Business

Committee input on FoI matters during summer recess

Agreed: To delegate authority to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson FOI handling arrangements during recess, with the condition that judgement is exercised in respect of any issues which may be sensitive or controversial nature.

There was no other business.

12. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held on Wednesday, 14 September 2016 at 2:00pm, Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5:45pm.

Mrs Emma Little Pengelly MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Finance
14 September 2016