



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 12TH JUNE 2013
ROOM 21

Present:

Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mr Ross Hussey MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr Ian McCrea MLA
Mr David McNarry MLA
Mr Cathal Ó hOisín MLA

In attendance:

Mr Paul Carlisle (Clerk to the Committee)
Mr Gavin Ervine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Tara McKee (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Alison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

Mr Sean Lynch (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat MLA

10:31am The meeting commenced in open session.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

None.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting of 5th June 2013.

4. Correspondence

10:36am *Mr McAleer joined the meeting*

Members noted the correspondence received.

Agreed: The Committee noted the agenda for the International Active Travel Conference on Wednesday 19 June 2013 and agreed to confirm attendance with Committee staff.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding safer routes to schools and agreed to forward to the Department for comment.

Agreed: The Committee noted Correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on Translink's Accounts 2012.

Agreed: The Committee noted further correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding the timescale for answering Committee queries on Translink Accounts 2012 and agreed to write to the Department to convey Members' displeasure at the lack of information forthcoming on this issue. The Committee also agreed to write to the Head of the Civil Service regarding this matter.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development to the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety regarding Suicide Prevention Strategies.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding Consumer Council NI Review.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding the Foyle Ferry and exploration of funding sources and agreed to write to the Department to ask if any funding would be available from the EU for this trans-national service.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding changes to the NI Concessionary Fares Scheme as a result of welfare reform.

- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding traffic disruption at the Balmoral Show.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from Rt Hon David Lidington MP regarding UK Rep briefings.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from Mr Gerard Bradley regarding the Aircoach service from Belfast to Dublin and agreed to forward to the Department for comment.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted an invitation from Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company to attend the official opening of Portadown Train Station on 4th July 2013 and agreed to confirm attendance with Committee staff.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from Dolores Kelly MLA regarding the provision of computer tablets to Committees.

5. Department for Regional Development Briefing: Park and Ride Strategic Delivery Programme 2013-15

10:49am The following officials joined the meeting

Ciaran de Burca – Director of Transport Projects Division, DRD
Robin Totten – Park and Ride Programme Manager, DRD

The officials presented to the Committee in respect of the work of the above. Following the presentation, Members put questions.

11:18am Mr McNarry left the meeting

11:24am Mr McNarry re-joined the meeting

11:27am Mr Ó hOisín left the meeting

11:31am The officials left the meeting

Agreed: That the Committee would write to the Department to request a copy of the business case which sets out the process for awarding Belfast Rapid Transit to Translink.

Agreed: That the Committee would write to the Department to request a copy of Park and Ride user figures.

Agreed: That the Committee would write to the Department to request that it is kept up to date on any review of the Park and Ride Strategy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to support the Department's Park and Ride Strategic Delivery Programme 2013-15.

6. Craigavon Borough Council Briefing: Issues Associated with Lurgan Railway Station

11:32Am The following representatives joined the meeting

Cllr Carla Lockhart – Craigavon Borough Council
Cllr Joe Nelson – Craigavon Borough Council
Cllr Colin McCusker – Craigavon Borough Council
Cllr Johnny McGibbon – Craigavon Borough Council

The representatives presented to the Committee in respect of the work of the above.
Following the presentation, Members put questions.

11:51am Mr McCrea joined the meeting

11:51am Mr Ó hOisín re-joined the meeting

11:56am Mr Hussey left the meeting

12:11pm The representatives left the meeting

Agreed: That the Committee would hold a meeting in Craigavon early in the new session to take this matter forward.

Agreed: That the Committee would write to Craigavon Borough Council to request a copy of the report produced by Atkins and a copy of the updated options paper produced by Translink.

Agreed: That the Committee would write to the Department to ask for comments on a proposed economic and technical assessment of the area in question.

Agreed: That the Committee would write to the Department to request that DRD officials are present at any meetings of the Craigavon Integrated Framework Partnership.

7. SL1: The Control of Traffic (Belfast City Centre) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013

Agreed: That the Committee for Regional Development is content with the merits of the policy proposal.

8. SL1: The Road Races (Ulster Rally) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013

Agreed: That the Committee for Regional Development is content with the merits of the policy proposal.

9. Any Other Business

Mr McAleer raised the issue of working collaboratively with counterparts from the Oireachtas on matters such as road projects, the recent fire incident on an Enterprise train and the Foyle Ferry Service.

Agreed: That the Committee would invite their counterparts from the Oireachtas to hold a meeting to discuss the issues outlined above.

Mrs Kelly raised the issue of the investment agreed with Belfast Harbour Commissioners.

Agreed: That the Committee would write to the Department to request further information on the investment agreed with Belfast Harbour Commissioners, as highlighted in the June Monitoring briefing.

12:20pm Mr McNarry left the meeting

10. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 26th June 2013 at 10:30am in Room 21.

12:21pm The meeting was adjourned

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Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development
26/06/13