



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 26TH JUNE 2013
ROOM 21

Present:

Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Sean Lynch (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr Ian McCrea 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 Ross Hussey MLA
Mr David McNarry 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 12th June 2013.

4. Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence received.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding financial forecasting data.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding the appointment of the Chair to Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on June Monitoring Round.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development to Mr R Hunter regarding Translink structures.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development to Nicole Stevenson regarding the increase in Translink fares.

Agreed: The Committee noted Correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Public Hire Taxis at Belfast Central Station.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding bus revenue and upgrading costs.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Translink 2012 accounts and agreed to request a briefing from Translink on the 2013 accounts at a meeting on 10th July 2013.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development to the Committee for Education regarding safer routes to school initiative.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding a press briefing on Translink accounts and agreed to write to the Department to ask for further information on this matter.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development to the Committee for the Environment regarding rural road safety and agreed to request a briefing from the Department on this matter in the new session.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding the Executive's Draft European Priorities for 2013/14 and agreed to request further information on the Department on this matter.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on Ulster Farmers' Union briefing.

Agreed: The Committee noted a copy of Consumer Council Report 'Developing Customer Focused Key Performance Indicators for Translink'.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Mr Conor Doyle regarding Translink provision of discounted student travel and agreed to forward to the Department for comment.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Magherafelt District Council requesting to brief the Committee regarding a Magherafelt bypass and agreed to decline this request in order to not be seen supporting one potential project over another.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Mr Michael Walker regarding industrial relations at NI Railways.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Mr R Hunter regarding Translink.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from IMTAC regarding their forward work programme for 2013/14 and agreed to receive a briefing on this matter in the new session.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Mr and Mrs Bannon regarding the Door-2-Door service and agreed to forward to the Department for comment.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from IMTAC regarding the benefits of low-floor minibuses and a Departmental reply on this matter.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the 2&4 Wheeled Motorsport Steering Group requesting to brief the Committee on the proposed road race legislation and agreed to a joint presentation on this matter at next week's meeting.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Cllr Tom Smith regarding the closure of Donaghadee Bus Station and agreed to forward to the Department for comment.

10:59am Mrs Kelly joined the meeting

5. Guide Dogs NI Briefing: Road to Nowhere Report

11:00am The following representatives joined the meeting

Andrew Murdock – Policy and Engagement Manager, Guide Dogs NI
June Best – NI Ambassador for Disability/IMTAC Representative
Torrie Tennant – Guide Dog Owner

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

11:10am Mr McAleer left the meeting

11:27am Mrs Kelly left the meeting

11:28am The representatives left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the OFMdFM Committee to ask for information on the Disability Strategy and delivering social change and how this could be used to allow Guide Dogs NI to realise some of their objectives.

6. Department for Regional Development Briefing: Proposed Service Agreement with Northern Ireland Holding Company

11:29am The following officials joined the meeting

Sean Johnston – Programme Manager, Transport Projects Division, DRD
Anne Breen – Public Transport Services Division, Transport NI, DRD
David Strain – Transport Projects Division, DRD

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

11:30am Mr Easton joined the meeting

11:54am Mr Dickson left the meeting

12:06pm Mr McCrea joined the meeting

12:08pm Mr Easton left the meeting

12:21pm Mr Dallat left the meeting

12:21pm *The officials left the meeting*

12:21pm *The Committee adjourned for a short break*

12:26pm *The Committee recommenced in open session*

7. Department for Regional Development Briefing: Update on PfG and Business Plan Targets

12:26pm *The following officials joined the meeting*

Richard Pengelly – Permanent Secretary, DRD
Dr Andrew Murray – Chief Executive Transport NI, DRD
Barney McGahan – Deputy Secretary Regional Planning and Transportation Group, DRD
David Orr CBE – Deputy Secretary Finance, Resources and Water Policy, DRD

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

12:30pm *Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting*

12:31pm *Mr Dickson re-joined the meeting*

12:33pm *Mr Lynch left the meeting*

12:40pm *Mr McAleer re-joined the meeting*

12:45pm *Mr Ó hOisín left the meeting*

1:00pm *The officials left the meeting*

8. Subordinate Legislation not Subject to Assembly Procedure

Members noted:

- The Waiting Restrictions (Carrickfergus) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013
- The Waiting Restrictions (Larne) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013
- The Loading Bays on Roads (Amendment No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013
- The Waiting Restrictions (Warrenpoint) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013

9. SL1: The Frome Street, Belfast (Footpaths) (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013

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

10. SR 2013/153: The Nugent's Entry, Enniskillen (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013

Agreed: That the Committee for Regional Development has considered SR 2013/153: The Nugent's Entry, Enniskillen (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013 and has no objection to the rule.

11. Any Other Business

12. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 3rd July 2013 at 10:30am in Room 21.

1:03pm The meeting was adjourned

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Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development
03/07/13