



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2013
ROOM 21

Present:

Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA (Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mrs Brenda Hale MLA
Mr Declan McAleer 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 Ross Hussey MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA

Agreed: As the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson were not present, Mr McAleer proposed that Mr Cathal Ó hOisín took the chair. All other Members present were in agreement.

10:34am The meeting commenced in closed session.

The Committee discussed the draft report on the Inquiry into Comprehensive Transport Delivery Structures.

10:43am Mr Easton joined the meeting

10:47am *The Committee recommenced in open session*

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson welcomed Mrs Brenda Hale MLA to the Committee.

The Chairperson raised the issue of changing the start time of Committee meetings to 10:00am, instead of 10:30am. This would be of benefit to those Members who have other business/meetings on a Wednesday afternoon.

Agreed: All regular Committee meetings will now begin at 10:00am, with effect from Wednesday 2nd October 2013.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting of 11th September 2013.

4. Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence received.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Central Committee Office regarding Members' attendance for the 2012/13 session and agreed to confirm the accuracy of the statistics by Friday 20th September 2013.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding the Committee queries on improvements to the Londonderry/Coleraine Railway Line.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the OFMdFM Committee regarding the Report of the Advisory Group on Alleviating Hardship.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the completion of Post Project Evaluations and agreed to forward to the Department for comment on its outstanding PPEs.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Ulster Farmers' Union regarding a briefing to discuss road development and agreed that the Clerk liaise with their representatives to arrange a briefing.

5. Department for Regional Development Briefing: Delayed Start to Phase 2 of the Londonderry Rail Scheme

10:51am The following official joined the meeting

Ciaran Doran – Director of Public Transport Performance Division, DRD

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

10:56am Mr Spratt joined the meeting

10:56am Mr Spratt assumed the role of Chairperson

11:43am The official left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a briefing from the Chief Executive of Translink regarding this issue at the meeting on 25th September 2013.

6. Consideration of the draft Report of the Inquiry into the Comprehensive Transport Delivery Structures

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Membership and Powers section of the Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the List of Abbreviations and Acronyms section of the Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Executive Summary section of the Report, subject to agreed amendments.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Introduction section of the Report, subject to agreed amendments.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Summary of Recommendations section of the Report, subject to agreed amendments.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Key Issues section of the Report, subject to agreed amendments.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Committee office takes forward production of the appendices to the Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Report be ordered to print.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a manuscript copy of the Report to the Minister.

7. SL1: The Train Driving Licences and Certificates (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013

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

8. SL1: The Railways (Safety Management) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013

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

9. Any Other Business

Mr Ó hOisín raised the issue of the tender application process for snow clearers, in particular those issues surrounding Section 6, clause 6 of the application form.

Agreed: That the Committee would write to the Department highlighting the concerns and asking if consideration has been given to extending the closing date for applications to allow for the issues that have been raised to be clarified to the Ulster Farmers Union and individual farmers.

10. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 25th September 2013 at 10:30am in the offices of Craigavon Borough Council.

11:55am The meeting was adjourned

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Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development
02/10/13