



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2013
ROOM 21

Present:

Mr Sean Lynch (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mrs Brenda Hale MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy 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 Jimmy Spratt (Chairperson)
Mr Ross Hussey MLA

10:03am The meeting commenced in open session.

1. Apologies

As above.

10:05am Mr McAleer joined the meeting

10:05am Mr Ó hOisín left the meeting

2. Chairperson's Business

The Deputy Chairperson welcomed Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA to the Committee.

The Deputy Chairperson raised the issue of reports in the media regarding the Committee's Report into Comprehensive Transport Delivery Structures and reiterated that Members should refrain from discussing the content of the Report with the press until after it has been debated in the House.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting of 25th September 2013.

10:09am Mr Ó hOisín re-joined the meeting

10:12am Mrs Kelly joined the meeting

4. Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence received.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding the Rathlin and Strangford Ferry project and agreed to write to the Department to ask for an update on the funding status of the Foyle Ferry.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding cycling infrastructure.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the department for Regional Development regarding Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company finances.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Research and Information Service regarding a European update.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on Phase 2 of the Londonderry/Coleraine Rail Project.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding a report into the review of Roads Service Winter Service.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence regarding the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland – Investing Activity Report for September 2013.

5. Department for Regional Development Briefing: October Monitoring Round

10:47am The following officials joined the meeting

Deborah McNeilly – Acting Deputy Secretary, Finance Resources and Water Policy, DRD

John McNeill – Acting Director of Finance, DRD

Stewart Barnes – Financial Planning and Management Branch, DRD

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

10:24am Mr McNarry joined the meeting

10:44am Mrs Kelly left the meeting

10:49am Mrs Hale joined the meeting

10:54am The officials left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to support the Department's October Monitoring position.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask for further information on its liabilities if it is not complicit with the statutory requirements for inspection and testing of street lighting. Members also asked for further information on the other projects being considered in relation to release of value from Belfast Harbour Commissioners.

6. Department for Regional Development Briefing: 2014/15 Capital Budget Exercise

10:55am The following officials joined the meeting

Deborah McNeilly – Acting Deputy Secretary, Finance Resources and Water Policy, DRD

John McNeill – Acting Director of Finance, DRD

Stewart Barnes – Financial Planning and Management Branch, DRD

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

11:13am Mrs Kelly re-joined the meeting

11:23am The officials left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a briefing on the Policy Prioritisation Framework and for a breakdown as to the number and type of buses involved in the bus procurement bid.

7. Road Races (Amendment) Bill

Agreed: The Committee noted a number of consultation responses to the legislative proposals.

8. Subordinate Legislation not Subject to Assembly Procedure

Members noted:

- The Parking Places (Disabled Persons' Vehicles) (Amendment No.6) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask if the Minister would consider revisiting issues surrounding elderly carers, who are not blue badge holders, being able to use disabled parking places.

9. Any Other Business

The Deputy Chairperson asked Members to indicate their availability to attend a session on 'Effective Questioning' on Thursday 7th November 2013.

Mrs Kelly informed the Committee that this would be her last meeting and thanked the Deputy Chairperson for his hard work and leadership. The Deputy Chairperson thanked Mrs Kelly for her contribution to the Committee and wished her all the best for her new role.

Agreed: The Committee would write to Mrs Kelly to thank her for her contribution to the Committee.

10. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 9th October 2013 at 10:00am in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

11:30am The meeting was adjourned

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Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development
09/10/13