



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 22ND JANUARY 2014
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present:

Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Sean Lynch MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Joe Byrne MLA
Mr John Dallat MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mrs Brenda Hale MLA
Mr Ross Hussey MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr David McNarry 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 Cathal Ó hOisín MLA

10:02am *The meeting commenced in open session*

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson gave Members an overview of the meeting he had with representatives of Belfast Public Hire Taxis, which took place before today's meeting.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting of 15th January 2014.

4. Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence received.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding its response to the Committee Inquiry into Comprehensive Transport Delivery Structures and agreed circulate a copy of this to the stakeholders who gave oral evidence to the Committee during the Inquiry for comment.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Roy Beggs MLA inviting Members to attend a briefing on his Private Members Bill – Scrap Metal Dealers (NI).

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the OFMdFM Committee regarding Barroso Task Force Desk Officers' Report: July – September 2013.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding the Committee's Inquiry into the Benefits of Cycling to the Economy.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding an Inquiry into Inclusion in the Arts of Working Class Communities.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on Translink Accounts and Audit Reports.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development to Mr Kenneth Galloway regarding public transport in Crumlin, Co Antrim.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding the Minister's remarks on the gritting of roads and agreed to write to the Department to request a copy of the report into this issue.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding an update on its January Monitoring Round position.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding implementation of the EU Regulation on bus and coach passenger rights.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding addition of Article 5(c) of the Roads (Restriction of Waiting) Order (NI) 1982 to the Schedule of Fixed Penalty Notice.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Translink regarding a briefing on plans to replace Translink's current ticketing system and agreed to arrange a briefing at the meeting on 12th February 2014.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Utility Regulator regarding Committee queries on allocation of funding in PC15.

10:14am Mr Easton joined the Committee

5. Department for Regional Development Briefing: Public Passenger Transport Regulations

10:20am The following officials joined the meeting

Sean Johnston – Programme Manager, Public Transport Reform, DRD

Garry McKenna – Head of Policy and Legislation Branch, DRD

David Strain – Public Transport Reform, DRD

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

10:28am Mr Hussey left the meeting

10:52am Mr McAleer left the meeting

11:00am Mr McAleer re-joined the meeting

11:12am Mr McNarry left the meeting

11:12am The officials left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a list of the 200 operators that provide transport services and the 110 routes currently in operation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a copy of the Departmental guidance being provided to transport operators.

6. Committee Strategic Planning Day and Effective Questioning – A Follow Up

Agreed: The Committee agreed to undertake a review of its Strategic Priorities and participate in an Effective Questioning Workshop at a forthcoming external meeting.

7. Inquiry into the Benefits of Cycling to the Economy

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme in relation to the Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the wording of the signposting advertisement and agreed that it would appear in the press week commencing 3rd February 2014.

8. Any Other Business

Mrs Hale raised the issue of increased traffic in Hillsborough, Co Down, referring to a report that has been produced to highlight this.

Mrs Hale declared an interest as a resident of Hillsborough.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask for an update on the work to ease traffic flow in Hillsborough.

9. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 5th February 2014 at 10:00am in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

11:23am The meeting was adjourned

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Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development
05/02/14