



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL 2015
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present:

Mr Trevor Clarke MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Sean Lynch MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Joe Byrne MLA
Mr John Dallat MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr David McNarry MLA
Mr Stephen Moutray MLA
Mr Cathal Ó hOisín MLA

In attendance:

Mr Paul Carlisle (Clerk to the Committee)
Mr Gavin Ervine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Christine Dodson (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Barry McLernon (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

Mr Ross Hussey MLA

10:12am *The meeting commenced in open session*

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed Members that Mr Ross Hussey MLA's mother passed away at the weekend.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Mr Hussey to pass on Members' condolences.

The Chairperson informed Members that he has been invited, along with the Deputy Chairperson, to meet the Minister on Monday 27th April 2015. One of the issues to be discussed relates to the Minister's letter from last week on.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting of 15th April 2015.

4. Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence received.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on Translink fare increases.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on the Coleraine to Londonderry Rail Track Phase Two procurement process and agreed to include this in the inquiry folder.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on Departmental budget allocations.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development to Cllr John Finlay regarding Community Transport issues.

Agreed: The Committee noted an invite from the Utility Regulator to attend a workshop on consumer protection strategy.

Agreed: The Committee noted a copy of the Executive Summary of the NIAO Report 'DRD: The Effectiveness of Public Transport in Northern Ireland'.

5. Community Transport Briefing: Rural Transport Fund 2015/16

10:16am The following representatives joined the meeting

Paddy McEldowney – Easilink Community Transport

Anita Flanagan – Fermanagh Community Transport
Ian Wilson – Down Armagh Rural Transport Partnership
Billy Moore – North Coast Community Transport

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

The Chairperson declared an interest as a Member for the South Antrim constituency.

10:51am Mr Moutray left the meeting

10:54am Mr McNarry left the meeting

10:58am Mr Moutray re-joined the meeting

10:58am The representatives left the meeting

6. Department for Regional Development Briefing: Community Transport

10:59am The following officials joined the meeting

Ciaran Doran – Director of Public Transport Services Division, DRD
Tony McConnell – Public Transport Services Division, DRD

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

11:02am Mr McNarry re-joined the meeting

11:14am Mr McAleer left the meeting

11:24am Mr McAleer re-joined the meeting

11:59am Mr Lynch left the meeting

12:09pm Mr Lynch re-joined the meeting

12:09pm Mr Byrne left the meeting

12:18pm Mr Moutray left the meeting

12:22pm The officials left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request details of the reserves held by each of the Community Transport partnerships.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request details relating to bids for funding for Community Transport partnerships from the Departmental budget.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to confirm that the decision to severely reduce to reduce rural Community Transport partnerships was fully rural-proofed.

12:22pm The Committee adjourned

12:38pm The Committee recommenced in open session

The following Members were present: Mr Trevor Clarke MLA (Chairperson), Mr Sean Lynch MLA (Deputy Chairperson), Mr John Dallat MLA, Mr Declan McAleer MLA, Mr David McNarry MLA, Mr Cathal Ó hOisín MLA.

7. Department for Regional Development Briefing: Public Passenger Transport (Service Agreements & Service Permits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

12:38pm The following officials joined the meeting

Ciaran Doran – Director of Public Transport Services Division, DRD

Sean Johnston – Programme Manager, Transport NI

Garry McKenna – Head of Transport Legislation Branch, DRD

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

12:38pm Mr McNarry left the meeting

1:00pm Mr McAleer left the meeting

1:00pm The Committee was inquorate

1:04pm Mr McAleer re-joined the meeting

1:04pm The Committee was once again quorate

1:07pm The officials left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request an update on the Dungannon integrated transport pilot project.

8. Department for Regional Development Briefing: Public Hire Taxi Ranks

1:08pm The following officials joined the meeting

Norman Chambers – Principal Engineer, Transport NI

Roy Gordon – Traffic Engineer, Transport NI

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

1:29pm Mr Ó hOisín left the meeting

1:29pm The Committee was inquorate

1:33pm Mr Ó hOisín re-joined the meeting

1:33pm The Committee was once again quorate

1:34pm Mr Dallat left the meeting

1:34pm The Committee was inquorate

1:37pm The officials left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request details in respect of the four new taxi ranks proposed and indicate what other plans they are developing for taxi ranks in Belfast.

9. Any Other Business

10. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 29th April 2015 at 10:00am in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

1:37pm The meeting was adjourned

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Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development
29/04/15