



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2015
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present:

Mr Trevor Clarke MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Seán Lynch (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat MLA
Mrs Brenda Hale MLA
Ms Claire Hanna MLA
Mr David McNarry MLA

In attendance:

Mr Jim McManus (Clerk)
Ms Kate McCullough (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr George McClelland (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Barry McLernon (Clerical Officer)

10.45am The meeting commenced in open session

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Mr McAleer and Mr Ó hOisín.

2. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

Agreed: The Committee agreed to receive Agenda Item 6 first – NI Water Annual Report & Accounts 2014-15.

6. NORTHERN IRELAND WATER ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2014/15

10.47am The following witnesses joined the meeting:

- Ms Sara Venning, Chief Executive, NI Water
- Mr Ronan Larkin, Director of Finance & Regulation, NI Water

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer the briefing by NI Water on its Annual Report & Accounts 2014/15 until 13 January 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold an informal meeting with the Northern Ireland Assembly Researcher on Wednesday 6 January 2016 at 12 noon.

10.49am Witnesses left the meeting

3. DRAFT MINUTES: MEETING OF 2 DECEMBER 2015

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting on 2 December 2015.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Members considered the Department's response regarding Ulsterbus and the carriage of school children and wheelchair users.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek clarification from Translink that the new buses being built for Belfast Rapid Transit System will incorporate full facilities for school children and wheelchair users.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to receive details of the percentage of rail services provided by Translink which are compliant with Equality legislation.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted and considered the correspondence received.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department to provide an explanation as to why the response received from NI Water was not available on the expected deadline and why it did not contain the full information requested.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department to ensure the information requested from NI Water which had not been received would be made available to the Secretariat for the meeting pack of 7 January 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Committee for Justice to request clarification from the Law Society as to what procedures are in place for conveyancing solicitors to inform buyers if a sewer bond guarantee has not been afforded by the property developer.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to receive a briefing in January 2016 from the Department with regards to the future reallocation of DRD statutory functions.

7. DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT – LIVING WITH WATER PROGRAMME

11.08am The following witnesses joined the meeting:

- *Ms Linda MacHugh, Director of Water Policy and Shareholder Unit, Department for Regional Development*
- *Mr Paddy Brow, Living With Water Programme Manager, Department for Regional Development*

Members received a briefing on the Living with Water Programme which included the risks, issues and aims.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request from NI Water the priority list of sewers at risk which it has identified.

11.54am The Committee agreed to suspend Agenda Item 7 and move to Agenda Items 8-15.

11.48am Mr Lynch left the meeting

8-15. SL1s TO NOTE

11.54am The Committee noted the SL1s.

11.58am Ms Hanna left the meeting

11.58am The Committee returned to Agenda Item 7 – Living with Water Programme

12.19pm Witnesses left the meeting

16. EU MATTERS

Members noted the Northern Ireland Assembly 'EU Matters'.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members were asked to consider a briefing from the Belfast City Airport Watch on minimising aircraft noise in the New Year.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 13 January 2016 at 10am in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

12.24pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting

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Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development
09/12/15