



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2016
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present:

Mr Trevor Clarke MLA (Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat MLA
Mrs Brenda Hale MLA
Mr Chris Lyttle MLA
Mr Daniel McCrossan MLA
Mr Cathal Ó hOisín MLA

In attendance:

Mr Trevor Allen (Senior Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Kate McCullough (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Barry McLernon (Clerical Officer)

10.29am: The meeting opened in public session

CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

The Chairperson reflected on the investment in Translink's new Goldliner fleet.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to receive, from Translink, details of the timescale for the launch of the App to provide information on public transport for people with visual impairment.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr McNarry and Mr Lynch.

10.31am: Mrs Hale joined the meeting

2. DRAFT MINUTES: MEETING OF 20 JANUARY 2016

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting on 20 January 2016.

10.32am: Daniel McCrossan joined the meeting

3. MATTERS ARISING

Members considered a draft response to the Committee for OFMdFM seeking the views of Statutory Committees on the Departments Bill and Transfer of functions Order.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the response and that it be forwarded to the Committee for the OFMdFM.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted and considered the correspondence.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Speaker to the Minister for Regional Development in relation to a public petition regarding Cairn Wood Forest Park and agreed to consider the Minister's response, when available.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a briefing from the Department for Regional Development at its meeting on 10th February in relation to the "Cycling in Northern Ireland Report – May 2015" and the "Travel Survey for Northern Ireland 2012-14" report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek clarification from Translink on the ability to lock wheelchairs in position when its vehicles are in motion.

Agreed: Members agreed to write to the member of the public who wrote to the Committee raising concerns around comments made on the 20mph speed restrictions in Belfast City Centre.

Agreed: Members agreed to receive, from the Department, a written briefing on the proposals for the sale of Lough Cowey.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY ON TRAINS AND ENTERPRISE TIMETABLE

10.39am: The following officials joined the meeting:

- *Mr Chris Conway, Chief Executive, Translink NI*
- *Mr Ian Campbell, General Manager, Engineering, Translink NI*

The Committee received a briefing from officials on the proposed changes to the timetable for the Enterprise train service from Belfast to Dublin and the recently reported safety concerns in relation to the trains.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) requesting a written briefing on the Enterprise train service, including information on the ongoing partnership working and its future vision for this service.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to receive written briefing from Translink on what follow-up action was taken by it following the safety incident.

11.11 am: Officials left the meeting

6. PUBLIC HIRE TAXIS

11.11am: The following witnesses joined the meeting:

- *Mr Gerry Diver, Belfast Public Hire Taxis*
- *Mr Pat Meighan, Belfast Public Hire Taxis*

The Committee received a briefing from Belfast Public Hire Taxis on their concerns around taxi ranks in Belfast City Centre.

11.33am: Mr ÓhOisín left the meeting

11.36am: Mr Dallat left the meeting

11.41am: Mr Dallat joined the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking clarification on allegations that taxi rank spaces at the back of the City Hall, or indeed any other areas on roads in and around the city centre, to park up between journeys.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to move into closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss how to take this matter forward.

11.49am: Witnesses left the meeting

7. STATUTORY RULE – NEGATIVE RESOLUTION

Agreed: That the Committee for Regional Development has considered SR 2015/390: The Clifton Street / Carrick Hill, Belfast (Footway) (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and has no objection to the rule.

8. STATUTORY RULE – NEGATIVE RESOLUTION

Agreed: That the Committee for Regional Development has considered SR 2015/392: The Carnbane Road, Newry (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and has no objection to the rule.

9. DRAFT FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Agreed: The Committee agreed its forward work programme and to include a Departmental briefing on its flagship programmes on 10 February 2016.

11.52am: Mr Dallat left the meeting

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

11.53am: The Committee moved into closed session to discuss Public Hire Taxis and Taxi Ranks.

11.54am: Mr Dallat joined the meeting

12.00pm: Mr Ó hOisín joined the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to set up a meeting with key stakeholders to move forward on this matter.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee will be on Wednesday 3 February 2016 at 10am in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

12.11pm: The Chairperson adjourned the meeting

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Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development

3 February 2016