



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**THURSDAY, 12 JANUARY 2012
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- Present: Mr Alban Maginness (Chairperson)
Mr Steven Agnew
Mr Gordon Dunne
Mr Phil Flanagan
Mr Paul Frew
Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Mr Stephen Moutray
Mr Mike Nesbitt
- In Attendance: Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Sohui Yim (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr David McKee (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Michelle McDowell (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: Mr Daithí McKay (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Robin Newton

The meeting began at 10.35am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 15 December 2011

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting on 15 December were agreed.

3. Chairperson's Business

Members noted a letter from Queens University Belfast requesting an interview with the Chair for a research project for the delivery of renewable energy under devolution.

Members noted a request from the NI Government Affairs Group to the Chair to address the Group's members in a meeting on issues relating to the ETI Committee.

Members noted an invitation to the Chair from NITB to the launch of Northern Ireland tourism events for 2012.

4. Matters Arising

Members noted a letter from the Utility Regulator regarding the Common Arrangements for Gas (CAG) project.

5. Tourism Ireland

Tourism Ireland officials joined the meeting at 10.39am.

Members received an oral briefing from Niall Gibbons, Chief Executive, Brian Ambrose, Chairman, Shane Clarke, Director of Corporate Services and Policy and Aubrey Irwin, Head of Northern Ireland and Produce, Tourism Ireland. Key issues discussed included the tourism visitor numbers in 2011 for Northern Ireland, challenges for attracting out of state visitors to the island and expectations for tourism this year.

Alasdair McDonnell joined the meeting at 11.00am.

Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 11.45am.

Agreed: Tourism Ireland officials to confirm whether the organisation will have a presence at the US Open in San Francisco in June 2012.

Tourism Ireland officials left the meeting at 11.45am.

Alasdair McDonnell left the meeting at 11.45am.

Members agreed to consider agenda item 7 next.

6. Subordinate Legislation

The Committee considered the following subordinate legislation:

SR 2011/427 Employers Liability (Compulsory Insurance) (Amendment) Regulations Northern Ireland 2011

Agreed: That the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has considered SR 2011/427 Employers Liability (Compulsory Insurance) (Amendment) Regulations Northern Ireland 2011 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules' report, has no objection to the rule.

Members agreed to return to agenda item 6.

7. January Monitoring Round: 2nd Stage

DETI and Invest NI officials joined the meeting at 11.47am.

Members received an oral briefing from Trevor Cooper, Finance Division, Bernie Brankin, Head of Finance Branch, DETI and Mel Chittock, Managing

Director, Corporate Services, Invest NI. Key issues discussed included the reasons for DETI's reduced requirements in the monitoring period, current worldwide and Northern Ireland economic climates and the impact on Invest NI capital investment projects.

Stephen Moutray joined the meeting at 11.54am.

Alasdair McDonnell returned to the meeting at 11.55am.

Alasdair McDonnell left the meeting at 12.28pm.

Stephen Agnew left the meeting at 12.30pm.

Agreed: To receive information on how much of the Jobs Fund has been spent to date and the number of jobs that it has created.

Agreed: To ask that the Committee be informed if/when the £5.6m reduced requirement under "Invest NI- Capital projects with risks" can be used by Invest NI.

DETI and Invest NI officials left the meeting at 12.50pm.

8. Draft NI Economic Strategy: Draft Comprehensive Action Plan

Members discussed the written briefing.

Agreed: Members agreed to await responses to the documents and consider the issue again at the meeting of 9 February.

9. Agri Food: A Study for Cross-Border Co-Operation

Members discussed the written briefing.

Agreed: To invite IntertradeIreland officials to provide an oral briefing to the Committee on the study.

Agreed: To consider inviting other organisations in the agri-food sector to provide oral briefings to the Committee.

10. Draft Forward Work Programme

Agreed: To schedule meetings and visits to NI Science Park, South Eastern Regional College (SERC) and Almac.

Agreed: To discuss the Inquiry into Research and Development in closed session at next week's meeting.

11. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence:

- i. A letter to the Chair from the Chair of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Jobs, Special Protection and Education.

Agreed: To schedule an informal meeting with the Oireachtas Joint Committee in the Spring.

ii. Responses from the Department on Committee queries regarding:

- Retained HR functions in DETI
- NITB Masterclass event

Agreed: To forward this to the GAA, the original inquirer.

- Responses from DETI and the Utility Regulator on Voltage optimization

Agreed: To forward the responses to Energy Saver NI.

iii. Correspondence from DETI regarding Remote Broadband Service Contract.

iv. Correspondence to the Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee from DETI regarding the Creative Industries.

Agreed: To forward the information to the Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee.

v. Response from DETI to the Committee for the Environment, copied to this Committee, on the North/South Interconnector.

vi. Correspondence from the NI Oil Federation regarding the Consumer Council's draft Customer Charter.

vii. Correspondence from Phoenix Gas regarding extending the Natural Gas Network in NI.

viii. Correspondence from a member of the public regarding pricing in district heating systems.

Agreed: To forward to the correspondence to the Department and Utility Regulator for comment.

ix. Invitation to members from the All Party Group on Co-operatives and Mutuals to a reception in the Members Dining Room at 1pm following this meeting.

x. Invitation to members from the NI Assembly and Business Trust to a business breakfast with the Confucius Institute on Tuesday, 17 January.

xi. Invitation from Semta to members to the launch of Semta NI at Thales Air Defence in Belfast on Tuesday, 24 January.

12. Any other business

Members raised the issue of existing protocol in relation to publicly discussing information that the Committee receives.

Agreed: Chair to raise the issue at the Chairperson's Liaison Group (CLG) meeting.

13. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Thursday 19 January at 10.30am, Room 30, Parliament Buildings.**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1.00pm.

Mr Alban Maginness
Chair
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

19 January 2012

From: Jim McManus
Committee Clerk
Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment

VERSION: 22/05/2017 11:14

To: Alban Maginness
Chairperson

cc Daithí McKay

Date: 19 January 2012

Before the meeting begins: Advise members that the meeting will move into closed session on the end to allow members to plan and discuss the inquiry into research and development.

CHAIR'S BRIEF FOR THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS ON 19 JANUARY AT 10.30AM.

Agenda Item 1 – Apologies

1. **Welcome** and remind members and the public that the meeting will be held in **public session** and that all mobile phones and electronic devices should be switched off as, even in silent mode, phones interfere with the recording system.
2. **Inform** members that apologies have been received from Dr Alasdair McDonnell and Paul Frew. **Ask** members if they have any further apologies.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes of meeting held on 12 January 2012

3. **Inform** members that copies of these minutes have been included in their papers at **Tab 1**. **Ask** members if they are content with the draft minutes.

Agenda Item 3 – Chairperson's Business

4. **Advise** members that papers in this item are at **Tab 2**.
5. **Inform** members that in papers is a letter from Invest NI regarding the Export Skills and Knowledge Workshops Programme Spring 2012. **Advise** members that the programme is in the Committee Office if members wish to see it.
6. **Advise** members that the Chair has received a request for a meeting from Copius International regarding partnering with Northern Ireland colleges to deliver deep sea certification for employment purposes.

Agenda Item 4 – Matters arising from 12 January 2012 meeting

7. **Inform** members that in papers in this item are at **Tab 3**.
8. **Inform** members that in papers is a letter from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development on the DARD draft Business Plan. **Ask** members if they have any views or suggestions regarding the issue. **Ask** members if they are content that the Clerk draft a response for consideration at next week's meeting.
9. **Remind** members that it was agreed at last week's meeting to ask InterTradeIreland to brief the Committee on its report on the Agri Food Sector. **Advise** members that the briefing has been scheduled for 9th February. **Ask** members if they are content to invite members of the Agriculture Committee to attend this meeting as the issue will be of considerable interest to them.
10. **Advise** members that in papers is a response from the Department regarding a Committee query on a local heating system. **Remind** members that the Committee has also written to the Utility Regulator regarding the matter. **Ask** members if they are content to note at this stage, pending a response from the Utility Regulator.
11. **Tabled today** is the Examiner of Statutory Rules' 11th report. This includes the Statutory Rule that was discussed at last week's meeting, SR 2011/427 Employers Liability (Compulsory Insurance) (Amendment) Regulations Northern Ireland 2011. **Advise** members that the Examiner has no comments in relation to the technical scrutiny of the Rule.
12. **Tabled today** is a letter from the Minister to the Chair regarding last week's briefing on January Monitoring Round.

Note to Chair: you may wish to advise members that you intend to reply to the Minister outlining the context of the interview, raising the matter of late papers to the Committee (especially in relation to the important matter of monitoring rounds) and expressing your disappointment with the formality with which she has addressed the issue.

13. **Ask** members if they are content.

(10.45am) Agenda Item 5 – Strategic Energy Framework (SEF) Implementation Plan Update: Written Briefing

14. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 4** and include the updated Strategic Energy Framework (SEF) Implementation Plan and a list of major projects that are linked to the Strategic Energy Framework. The Assistant Clerk has provided a briefing paper with background and summary of content.
15. **Ask** members if they have any comments.

16. **Ask** members if they are content to request the detailed implementation plan for the years 2012-2015 to ensure that Northern Ireland is compliant with EU electricity model by 2016.
17. **Remind** members that the Department is due to send an update to the Committee on proposals for a Renewable Heat Incentive for the meeting on 1st March. **Ask** members if they are content to schedule this as an oral briefing and to also request an update and progress report for the gas extension project.
18. **Inform** members that earlier in the week, the Chair met with Bob Barbour, CEO of the Centre for Competitiveness and Paddy Turnbull, Chairman of Smart Grid Ireland to discuss proposals for a Smart Grid pilot scheme for Northern Ireland. **Ask** members if they would be content to receive oral evidence from Smart Grid Ireland at the meeting on 2nd February.

Agenda Item 6 – Correspondence

19. **Advise** members that following items of correspondence are at **Tab 5**:

- i. **Ask** members if they are content to note:
 - Correspondence from the Minister to the Chair regarding credit union legislation.
 - Response from DETI on Post Project Evaluations (PPEs).
- ii. Correspondence from the Committee for Environment on Renewable Fuel Targets. **Ask** members if they are content to forward to the Department for a direct response to the Committee for Environment, copied to this Committee.
- iii. Request from Citizens Advice to receive a copy of the Department's response to Insolvency legislation and the committee's proposal for instalment payments. **Ask** members if they are content to provide the papers.
- iv. Query from member of the public regarding the Renewable Heat Incentive. **Ask** members if they are content to forward the query to the Department for a direct response to the inquirer.
- v. Invitation from Friends of the Earth to a Long Gallery Event on 31 January 2012. **Ask** members to contact the Committee Office if they wish to attend.
- vi. **Tabled today** is correspondence from the Environment Committee regarding the draft Programme for Government and the Green New

Deal. **Ask** members if they are content to forward to the Department for response.

- vii. **Tabled today** is correspondence from the Social Development Committee regarding progress on the Green New Deal. **Ask** members if they are content to forward to the Environment Committee for information.

Agenda Item 7 - Any Other Business

- 20. **Advise** members that there is one additional items of business.
- 21. **Inform** members that Mr Robin Newton has a proposal for a possible Committee visit to a company called Linn Products Ltd in Glasgow.
- 22. **Invite** Robin Newton to speak.
- 23. **Ask** members if they have any comments.
- 24. **Ask** members if they have any additional items of business.

Agenda Item 8 - Date, time and place of next meeting

- 25. The next meeting of the Committee will be on **26 January 2012 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings at 10.30am.**

Advise members that the meeting will now go into closed session to allow for consideration and planning of the research and development inquiry. **Ask** members if they are content that Fergal Campbell, the bursary student, remain in the room.

(11.00 am) Agenda Item 9 - Closed session: Inquiry into Research and Development

- 26. **Invite Mr Robin Newton** to brief the Committee, as Rapporteur for the Inquiry.



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

Room 412
Parliament Buildings

Tel: +44 (0)28 9052 1784

Fax: +44 (0)28 9052 1679

**From: Stephen Graham
Clerk to the Committee for Agriculture and Rural
Development**

Date: 12 January 2012

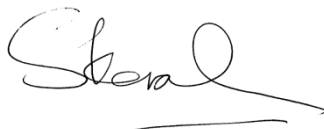
**To: Jim McManus
Clerk to the Committee for the Enterprise, Trade and
Investment**

Subject: Draft Economic Strategy Action Plan

At its meeting of 10 January 2012 the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development considered your correspondence in relation to the Draft Economic Strategy Action Plan. I had written to you, previously, to outline the ARD Committee's approach to the consultation on the draft PfG, the draft Economic Strategy Action Plan, etc. That memo remains valid.

However, on an associated issue, the ARD Committee has been scrutinising the DARD draft Business Plan. Given the proposals for a Food Strategy Board, alongside plans to help grow the agri-food sector, the ARD Committee is interested to know if the Enterprise, Trade and Investment Committee has any views on the potential need to provide additional resources to the further, and higher, education sectors in order to support the development of the agri-food sector.

Yours Sincerely



**Stephen Graham
Committee Clerk**



**Friends of
the Earth**

**Alex Attwood MLA
Minister of the Environment**

invites you to the launch of

‘What are they Planning’
in the
Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings, Belfast
on behalf of
Friends of the Earth

Tuesday 31 January 2012 from 12:00 – 14:00

Event starts at 12pm sharp – Please arrive from 11.30 am to allow for parking, entry to Parliament Buildings and Registration

RSVP not later than **19th January** to
Fiona Joyce Friends of the Earth, 7 Donegall Street Place, Belfast, BT1 2FN
Telephone: 028 90233488 fiona.joyce@foe.co.uk

NB: Present invite at the Massey Avenue entrance to Stormont Estate and on entry to Parliament Buildings
(this personal invitation is **not transferable**)

REPLY SLIP EVENT AT PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS ON 31 January 2012

* **Yes, I will** attend the above event -----
(tick appropriate box)

* **No, I will not** attend the above event -----

Name: _____

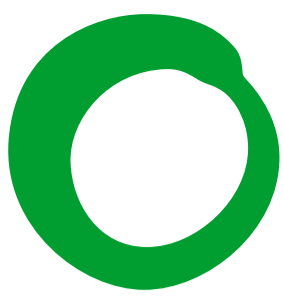
Address: _____

Tel No: _____ E-mail: _____

* My vehicle registration number is _____

* Tick box if you require special access arrangements
(e.g. due to injury or disability)

* I have special dietary needs as follows: _____



**Friends of
the Earth**

ETI-05800

Northern Ireland

Newsletter

Issue 22 Autumn 2011

Friends of the Earth inspires solutions to environmental problems which make life better for people

WHAT ARE THEY PLANNING?

Contacts

Friends of the Earth

7 Donegall Street Place
Belfast BT1 2FN

Tel: 028 9023 3488

Fax: 028 9024 7556

Email: foe-ni@foe.co.uk

Website: www.foe.co.uk/ni

James Orr

Director

Tel: 028 9023 3636

Email: james.orr@foe.co.uk

Declan Allison

Campaigner

Tel: 028 9089 7591

Email: declan.allison@foe.co.uk

Niall Bakewell

Activism Co-ordinator

Tel: 028 9089 7592

Email: niall.bakewell@foe.co.uk

Fiona Joyce

Office Manager

(maternity cover)

Tel: 028 9023 3488

Email: fiona.joyce@foe.co.uk

Local Groups

Banbridge and Mourne

Friends of the Earth

Bonnie Horsman

Tel: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Email: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Bannside

Friends of the Earth

(meets in Coleraine)

Clare Armour

Tel: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Email: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Belfast

Friends of the Earth

Andrew McMurray

Tel: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Email: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Downpatrick

Friends of the Earth

Keith Bradford

Tel: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Email: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Larne

Friends of the Earth

Leanna Filbey

Tel: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Email: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

North Down and Ards

Friends of the Earth

Lorna Hamilton

Tel: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Email: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

John Woods



John Woods is Project leader of the Green New Deal.

John Woods is the Project Leader of the Green New Deal. He met up with Declan Allison to discuss the project.

John's interest in environmental matters started when he studied an MSc in Social and Public policy. His dissertation was on development and forestry in India. That led to his first environmental job, with Friends of the Earth Scotland.

"Since then, I worked on an environmental project in Nepal, then it was working here with Democratic

Dialogue and the Yes Campaign, followed by ten years with Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland", John explained.

While at Friends of the Earth John initiated the Green New Deal:

"Friends of the Earth pulled the group together. We looked at how to tackle the triple crunch of recession, fuel prices and climate change. When I left Friends of the Earth I was lucky enough to be asked to co-ordinate it. Our strategy was to build consensus in civic society, then use it to build a political consensus."

The Green New Deal covers a broad range of areas, including transport, sustainable industries, and commercial buildings, but a strategic decision was taken to concentrate on housing.

"Housing was the low hanging fruit, something we could get a relatively quick result with, for which there would be broad support."

John explained the group put together a compelling business plan:

"In November last year we launched the plan at Stormont. It had support from all five main parties. Then the Executive published its draft budget, and that included £12m for the Green New Deal. It wasn't as much as we needed but it was something to work with."

A proposal for how to spend the £12m was submitted in September.

"The £12m is spent on grants for anything from loft insulation to solid wall insulation, to incentivise people. A pay-as-you-save loan is available which means there are no upfront costs to the home-owner and they can cover the repayments through savings they make in their energy bills. That £12m was going to enable over £80m to be spent on people's homes."

"It will save the average household £350 a year. For many people in fuel poverty it will mean they have

more comfortable homes. It will create jobs, up to 1100, and reduce household emissions by over 20 per cent."

Ten per cent of Northern Ireland's income is spent on imported fossil fuels.

"We're plugging energy leaky buildings, and we're plugging our leaky economy. Over the lifetime of these measures £440m will be saved. It's got to be a good thing."

John described his frustration at Government caution.

"It is utterly futile for Ministers to look at the price of oil. It is the regulator who regulates; it is the markets that set the price. Ministers can only tinker at the margins. But where they can really make a difference is by helping people with saving energy."

"The Green New Deal is available now. We could start work in April. For now we sit and wait."

Warm homes, not warm words

Lauded by politicians as a way out of recession, the Green New Deal has gained almost universal support. Yet, two years on from its inception, it remains trapped in a groundhog day of business plan rewrites.

The 2011 budget awarded the Green New Deal £4m per year for four years. This was far short of the £72m bid for but was welcomed as a step in the right direction. The first year's instalment was not forthcoming though, so £16m became £12m.

In February, the Finance Minister announced he would scrap the energy efficiency and low-carbon homes rates rebates schemes and re-direct the savings towards the Green New Deal. To date, no money saved by scrapping these rebates schemes has been directed to the Green New Deal.

More recently, DETI and DSD decided the objectives of the Green New Deal might better be achieved by deploying the allocated money in some other way. There are now three options on the table: the Green New Deal; a GB style, industry lead Green Deal; and a public awareness campaign. The preferred option, apparently, is the industry lead Green Deal.

Despite the vocal support for the Green New Deal in the Assembly, the project has got lost in the labyrinth of political ideology and civil service inertia. If it is to progress it needs a champion to rise from the ranks of the Assembly.



The Green New Deal needs a champion in the Assembly if it is to succeed.

News in Brief

Plan it!

Friends of the Earth and Queen's University will publicise the results of their planning survey on Wednesday 14th December in the First Presbyterian Church, Rosemary Street Belfast at 1pm. The event will include analysis of the survey, and testimonials from people impacted by poor planning decisions.

What are they planning?

Friends of the Earth's new planning campaign, 'What are they planning?' will be launched in the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings on 31st January 2012. If you would like to attend please get in touch.

Renewable heat

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment has launched a Renewable Heat Incentive to support the development of a market for heat from renewables such as biomass, solar thermal and heat pumps. More information can be found at www.detini.gov.uk

Activism Gathering

Friends of the Earth staff and activists from North and South of the border came together in June in Tollymore, Co. Down for a weekend of workshops, networking and relaxation. Highlights included a discussion on the changing political landscape, and an exploration of grassroots activism.

Editor: Declan Allison **Contributors:** James Orr and Niall Bakewell. **Designed by:** LSD Limited. **Printed on:** Paper made from 100% post consumer waste.

Friends of the Earth inspires solutions to environmental problems which make life better for people

Friends of the Earth is a collective name for Friends of the Earth Trust, registered charity 281681, company number 1533942, and Friends of the Earth Limited, company number 1012357, both of which may use the above information.

In both cases the registered office is at 26-28 Underwood Street, London N1 7JQ Tel: 020 7490 1555 Fax: 020 7490 0881 Email: info@foe.co.uk Website: www.foe.co.uk, company number 1012357 © Friends of the Earth 2011. All rights reserved.

Received from the Committee for the Economy of 20/02/2017

Annotated by RHI Inquiry

If you would prefer not to receive any further communication from us please contact: colette.stewart@foe.co.uk or call 028 9023 3488 with your contact details.

Failing to plan is planning for failure.

Dear MLA

It is with earnest hope that I write to you to sort out the problems of planning.

Respondents to a recent survey, many of whom were developers and elected politicians, tell of crises of trust and confidence. There is a problem in how we mediate conflict over land, of how we treat the rights of citizens, and how we plan for the future. Instead of clear rules we have vague guidelines that are easily manipulated by those with access to political influence or the right barrister. Our planning system doesn't plan. It reacts. This is a crisis of democracy itself.

Planning is too important to get wrong. The evidence from other countries with buoyant economies and balanced societies is that a healthy planning system is a benchmark of good government. Yet in Northern Ireland, mediocre development, out of date plans, and arcane systems point to a dismantling of the planning system which has occurred over years.

It is a myth that planning is too restrictive. In reality we have a bit of a free for all. Our presumption in favour of development means that over 90 per cent of applications get approved even though many of these are speculative. If a proposal is rejected, developers often succeed at appeal, a right of appeal that is denied to communities.

“We need to plan for better railways, light rail, bus lanes and proper cycle lanes segregated from cars. Let's open up canals and provide more quality product for the discerning tourist.”

James Orr is Director of Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland.

Let me be sincere about my intentions. I want to see more development. Northern Ireland needs thousands of warm and affordable homes close to places of work, connected to nature and integrated with better transport. We need a vision for our towns and cities to reshape them into convivial communities in which to live and do commerce.

We need to plan for better railways, light rail, bus lanes and proper cycle lanes segregated from cars. Let's open up canals and provide more quality product for the discerning tourist. We have to plan strategically for much more renewable energy, on and off shore, to deliver energy security for the future. Let's put quality local food on the table by supporting productive farm enterprises next to urban areas.

We can build lots more homes and businesses on brownfield sites without concreting the countryside or building on floodplains. Occasionally you will have to turn down some applications, like out of town shopping centres, incinerators and development that abuses special landscapes and sites. Most importantly, when someone breaks the rules you must enforce decisions, and not just against the less powerful developers.

Despite the many cases of arbitrary, bizarre, bad and sad planning there are some positive stories. We should thank the planners for shielding us from the property boom and bust that hit the South and resulted in total economic failure.

It's not that difficult to deliver a better form of planning but it requires a positive vision of planning to guide the right sort of development to the right place. Let us all know what the rules of the game are and speed up the system by having a planned system that is fair, consistent and transparent for everyone.

Received from the Committee for the Economy on 08.06.2017
Annotated by RHI Inquiry

Get involved in our planning campaign

In the wake of the findings of the Queen's University Planning Survey, Friends of the Earth is launching a new campaign to transform our planning system, called “What Are They Planning?”

The large number of responses to the questionnaire highlighted the strong interest in this subject, and the dissatisfaction that most people feel with the system.

Niall Bakewell, Friends of the Earth's Northern Ireland Activism Co-ordinator said:

“The way that planning is run in Northern Ireland needs nothing short of a revolution if it is to deliver environmental sustainability, social justice, and economic prosperity for all. What Are They Planning? will demand a system that is transparent and accountable, with guiding principles that prioritise sustainable development, and action on climate change and energy security, over the short-term, profit-driven interests of the few.”

The campaign will focus attention on the flaws in the current system, and offer evidence based solutions to these problems. It will draw on the best practice from Great Britain and the Republic, but will seek to go further when it comes to participation and championing public interest.

According to Niall activism will play a crucial role in What Are They Planning?:

“Friends of the Earth needs the support of local campaigners if this

campaign is to succeed. This campaign would not exist without the testimony of disgruntled citizens, and What Are They Planning? will channel that discontent into action.”

Activists will be asked to promote the campaign in their communities, by holding public meetings, writing into local papers, engaging the public, meeting with and lobbying politicians, and involving community and faith groups, as well as getting involved

in campaigning regionally through demonstrations and publicity stunts.

Niall concluded:

“We urge everyone who cares about improving Northern Ireland's planning system to sign up for this campaign.”

To become a What Are They Planning activist, email Niall at niall.bakewell@foe.co.uk, or phone 028 9089 7592.



Northern Ireland's planning system needs a major overhaul to make it fit for purpose.

Planning survey results

Five hundred and forty individuals responded to a survey initiated by Friends of the Earth into Northern Ireland's planning system.

Initial results indicate a very high level of dissatisfaction with the planning system. Just 5 per cent of respondents feel the planning system serves the public well or very well while 79 per cent feel the public is served poorly or very poorly. Early results reveal a deep concern about the lack of transparency in decision making, political links with developers, and a shared frustration by ordinary citizens and developers on the treatment of major planning applications. The survey also highlighted examples of good planning and shows that the public recognise when planning is done well.

“What began as an exercise in assessing the health of the planning system has evolved into a platform for hundreds of people dying to share their experiences. Not everyone has had negative experiences but many of these stories make painful and often bizarre reading”, said James Orr. Survey results and case studies will be collated to inform a Friends of the Earth campaign to improve the planning system.

The high response rate was generated by placing advertisements in regional newspapers and contacting groups engaged in the planning process. Most respondents were ordinary citizens but 6 per cent were elected politicians, 16 per cent were public sector employees, many of whom were planners, and 15 per cent represented developers. There was a good geographical spread, with responses from across the political

spectrum, although significantly more men filled in the survey than women.

Geraint Ellis, from Queen's University, Belfast, who designed the survey and is analysing the results said:

“The high level of engagement from developers, builders, politicians and even the planners themselves demonstrates a good balance and representation within the survey and shows just how controversial the planning system has become in Northern Ireland.”

A report on the survey will shortly be made available to the public and the results will be presented to Government before the New Year.

“Just 5 per cent of respondents feel the planning system serves the public well or very well while 79 per cent feel the public is served poorly or very poorly.”

Get in the game

The Assembly's Programme for Government has just been published. As expected, it will do nothing to tackle climate change or further sustainable development.

The draft Programme for Government has a target of a reduction in greenhouse gases by 35 per cent by 2025. To put that in perspective, the UK has adopted the Committee on Climate Change's recommended interim target of a 50 per cent cut by 2027. This is a slight improvement on the 25 per cent reduction target in the previous Programme for Government. It is still far short of what needs to be done though.

The Environment Minister, Alex Attwood, has publically announced on several occasions he wants to bring forward a Climate Change Bill, with binding targets. His announcements are cause to be optimistic, and most Assembly parties appear to be broadly supportive. The challenge will be to maintain and bolster that support to

enable the Bill to pass with ambitious targets.

Stop Climate Chaos is working with MLAs to ensure continued support for a Climate Change Bill. To this end the coalition is gathering together cross-party support for a motion in the Assembly calling on the Minister to introduce a Climate Change Bill. At the time of writing, the motion hadn't yet been tabled but several Assembly Members representing the majority of the House had agreed to sign it.

The motion makes the case for legally binding greenhouse gas reduction targets and recommends a target of at least 80 per cent cuts by 2050, with the final target being informed by the most up-to-date peer-reviewed science.

In October the Berkley Earth Surface Temperature (BEST) project published its analysis of land temperature data sets. The BEST project was set up by leading climate change contrarian Professor Müller in order to settle the question of whether or not global warming is occurring. Unsurprisingly,

at least to those who have been following the science, the BEST analysis agreed with the other main temperature data sets. The global has indeed been warming.

This affirmation of the consensus scientific position on climate change should settle the debate and allow the policy community to get on with the job of moving the world towards a low-carbon future. It is in this context that the targets in a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill should be decided.

Other Northern Ireland policy developments, however, could be moving us in the wrong direction.

From road building to shale gas exploration, and sustainability and intergenerational equity to air passenger duty cuts, Northern Ireland policy seems to be hotch-potch of 'whatever you're having yourself'. It's only a matter of time before the inconsistencies and incompatibilities become apparent.

Courtesy of Paul Glendell.



Northern Ireland needs a climate change law with binding emissions reduction targets.

Corporation tax

Assembly plans to cut Corporation Tax may be postponed, according to the Finance Minister. Will the proposed cut be good for Northern Ireland's economy?

"I do not believe that we will see a reduction in the rate of corporation tax within the lifetime of this Assembly. It will come after that", said Finance Minister, Sammy Wilson, to the Assembly in September. It looks like the devolution of Corporation Tax is off for now.

In July Friends of the Earth warned that the lowering of Corporation Tax, to 12.5 per cent to match that of the Republic of Ireland, would likely result in drastic cuts to public services, would be unfair to local family businesses and could be in breach of European law. The campaign group argued that instead of lowering corporation tax for the few big organisations that pay it, the Assembly should be exploring ways of closing the loopholes on tax avoidance. Friends of the Earth Director, James Orr said:

"The private sector needs to grow, but in the right direction. That should be towards a secure, diverse, and prosperous economy, by way of The Green New Deal. If others have no vision for the future other than business-as-usual they should start listening to the people who have."

Mr Orr continued:

"The Green New Deal could create thousands of jobs for less money than the money Northern Ireland will lose from subsidising the few big corporations who will in turn

drain their profits out of Northern Ireland. The way to rebalance is not to continually bend to the whims of corporate giants, like large supermarkets, but to build up and invest in the low carbon economy."

An in-depth critique of the proposed Corporation Tax cut can be found in "Pot of Gold or Fool's Gold", written by economist Richard Murphy on behalf of the TUC and ICTU.

"The private sector needs to grow, but in the right direction. That should be towards a secure, diverse, and prosperous economy, by way of The Green New Deal."

D-Day at Durban

Humanity's demand for the earth's finite resources continues to rise and the global gets ever warmer. All eyes turn to the climate talks in South Africa for viable solutions.

According to the Global Footprint Network (GFN) 27 September was Earth Overshoot Day – the day when our resource budget for the year ran out. After the 27th we were in ecological debt.

Along with rising consumption comes rising temperatures. 2011 continued a run of 142 consecutive months that the monthly global land temperature has been above the long-term average. The oceans have continued to warm, with much of the heat going into the deepest parts.

Rising temperatures result in falling ice volumes. The University of Bremen found that Arctic sea ice extent reached an historic low in 2011. [The Guardian's Economy](#) on 08.06.2017. Annotated by RHI Inquiry

In September the National Snow and Ice Data Center announced:

"The minimum ice extent this year is very close to 2007, and indeed some other research groups place 2011 as the lowest on record."

The Committee on Climate Change, the UK Government's advisory body, has recommended a target of a 50 per cent reduction in emissions by 2027. More recent evidence suggests that target should be much higher.

Friends of the Earth's report '**Reckless Gamblers**' shows, in order to avoid dangerous climate change, the UK needs to cut emissions by at least 80 per cent by 2030. Even these drastic cuts will likely lead to severe climate change.

The report is aimed at the policy community negotiating carbon targets. The next major climate negotiations are due to take place in Durban in

December. Analysts claim it is crucial the negotiations are successful.

Industrialised countries, however, are arguing the Kyoto Protocol should be replaced by a weak agreement based on pledges instead of binding commitments. Just 35 per cent of emissions reduction pledges are by developed countries even though they've contributed most to the problem.

The UN's Environment Programme has shown that unless governments agree to reduce emissions much further, current pledges could lead to a 5°C temperature rise. Such warming would likely be catastrophic.

Rather than cutting emissions, the Canadian Government seems intent on developing Canada's tar sands. According to Dr James Hansen, a leading climate scientist, exploitation of the tar sands would be game over for the Earth's climate.

Durban will be the centre of attention as crucial climate negotiations are underway.



Jim McManus
Clerk
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment
Room 424
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3XX

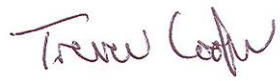
13 January 2012

Dear Jim

POST PROJECT EVALUATIONS

1. You wrote to David McCune requesting information on 24 projects that have been undertaken by the Department and its sponsored bodies for which a Post Project Evaluation (PPEs) is outstanding. You sought an update on the status of DETI's outstanding PPEs.
2. The most up-to-date position in respect of the PPEs identified by DFP as outstanding is set out at **Annex A**. Investigation of the 24 post project evaluations listed as outstanding by DFP has revealed the following:
 - 3 evaluations had already been completed by the relevant business area. Copies of the evaluations have been sent to DFP for their records;
 - DFP had recorded duplicate entries for 2 projects; and
 - 1 evaluation has been completed and is awaiting management sign-off before onward transmission to DFP.
3. Investigation of the remaining 18 PPEs has revealed a number of reasons for delays in completion against the original target date. These include:
 - Delays in the commencement of a project which requires the PPE to be rescheduled; and
 - Projects taking longer to complete than originally forecast, again requiring the PPE to be rescheduled.
4. It is anticipated that 13 of the 18 outstanding PPEs will be completed by the end of June 2012. We are liaising with DFP so that their records can be updated to reflect the revised target dates for these PPEs.
5. I trust that the Committee finds this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trevor Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

TREVOR COOPER

STATUS UPDATE ON POST PROJECT EVALUATIONS LISTED AS OUTSTANDING BY DFP

1. Post Project Evaluations on the DFP list that have already been completed and provided to DFP

Business Area	Casework Title	PPE Due Date	Current Status
Invest NI	Invest NI - Carbon Trust Funding Programme 2008 - 11	30/09/2011	PPE provided to DFP 14/11/11
Invest NI	ICDG App of Adv & Promotion Agency	30/09/2010	PPE provided to DFP 20/12/11
Invest NI	McAvoy Group Ltd	30/09/2010	PPE provided to DFP 20/12/11

2. Post Project Evaluations on the DFP list that are completed and awaiting final sign-off

Business Area	Casework Title	PPE Due Date	Current Status	Target Completion Date
Invest NI	Adapt. Works - Plastofilm Ltd	30/09/2010	Property related PPE is now complete and will be forwarded to the Department shortly.	31 January 2012

3. Duplicate Entries on the DFP Database

Business Area	Casework Title	Explanation
Invest NI	Invest NI - Granville Industrial Estate - Land Development - Notification of increase in costs and extension of time.	This is a duplicate record and has been included twice in error on the DFP database. The record refers to the Invest NI 'Cormullagh, Granville, Dungannon' project, listed under section 4 below.
NITB	NITB - Shankill Local Information Board	This is a duplicate record and has been included twice in error on the DFP database. The record refers to the NITB 'Shankill Local Information Office' project, listed under section 4 below.

4. Outstanding PPEs by Business Area – Update on Status

DETI HQ

Business Area	Casework Title	PPE Due Date	Current Status	Target Completion Date
Economic Policy Division	Dioxin Hardship Payment Scheme - Pork and Beef Processors	31/03/2011	<p>A number of key lessons have been identified and learnt following the independent review of the Dioxin Incident, which was undertaken by Kenneth J MacKenzie. The MacKenzie report concentrated mainly on the Executive's initial handling of the crisis and focused largely on communication issues.</p> <p>A formal evaluation of the Hardship Scheme will soon be undertaken.</p>	Not yet known
DETI Energy Division	Offshore Renewable Energy Regional Location Guidance	30/08/2011	Completion of the project was delayed for a few months and was finally completed in August 2011 and published in September 2011. This delay has had a knock-on effect on the completion date of the PPE. It is anticipated that a PPE for this assignment will therefore be completed by end-April 2012.	30 April 2012

NITB

Business Area	Casework Title	PPE Due Date	Current Status	Target Completion Date
NITB	First Derry Presbyterian Church	31/03/2011	There was a one year delay in project implementation mainly due to issues around procurement. This delay has had a knock-on effect on the completion date of the PPE. The First Derry Presbyterian Church officially opened in May 2011 and it is anticipated that the PPE will be completed by 31 May 2012.	31 May 2012
NITB	Shankill Local Information Office	30/09/2011	It had originally been forecast that the project would be fully implemented by September 2010 and a PPE due one year after completion (September 2011). The promoters have not yet fully implemented the project, and it is now deemed appropriate to undertake a PPE 3 years after completion to fully capture project outcomes.	31 January 2015
NITB	St Patrick's Trail	31/03/2011	The PPE for this project is currently in draft form. Some further work is required before the report can be finalised.	31 January 2012

Invest NI

Business Area	Casework Title	PPE Due Date	Current Status	Target Completion Date
Invest NI	Appointment of Public Relations Agent for ROI Market (consultancy)	01/09/2007	Invest NI is sourcing the project records required to undertake the evaluation.	31 March 2012
Invest NI	Cormullagh, Granville, Dungannon	30/04/2011	The contractor went into administration and the legal process will not be resolved until early in 2012, allowing completion of the PPE shortly thereafter.	31 March 2012
Invest NI	Slieve Donard Hotel Repositioning	31/01/2011	Invest NI has a draft evaluation report, although some additional work is required. Invest NI anticipates that the final report will be concluded by no later than 30 June 2012.	30 June 2012
Invest NI	FG Wilson (Engineering) Ltd - Business Growth Project	30/09/2010	Completion of the project was delayed with the project running on until January 2011. This delay has had a knock-on effect on the completion date of the PPE. Invest NI intends to commence work on the evaluation early in 2012.	30 June 2012
Invest NI	Accommodation for Allen Systems Group	30/09/2010	Invest now anticipates that a final PPE will be completed by end February 2012.	28 February 2012
Invest NI	NORTEL Networks UK Ltd	01/04/2011	The company remains in a UK administration process which may not conclude until 2013. Only at that point will Invest know the net cost of the project and be able to evaluate it fully. It is anticipated that the final PPE will be completed by end March 2014.	31 March 2014
Invest NI	North West Marketing - North West Business Complex - Skeoge Enterprise Park	30/06/2011	The build phase of the project completed in June 2006 with a subsequent five year implementation phase, which completed in June 2011. Invest NI has confirmed that a PPE will be undertaken 1 year after project completion.	30 June 2012
Invest NI	Invest NI Offers & Claims Management System	30/06/2011	Completion of the project has been delayed and it is still being implemented. Invest NI has confirmed that a PPE will be completed by end December 2012.	31 December 2012

Invest NI	Academic Business Clinical Research and Innovation Facility - Altnagelvin Hospital	30/06/2011	This project is not due to be completed until 2017. It appears that the original PPE date was given in error. An interim evaluation is underway and this will be supplied to DFP. A final evaluation will be undertaken in 2017.	Interim evaluation by 30 June 2012 Final evaluation by 30 September 2017
Invest NI	Pharmaceutical Development & Manufacturing Services Ltd (PDMS)	30/09/2011	This project is now completed. However the company has yet to submit its final grant claim thereby allowing Invest NI to undertake the PPE. It is anticipated that a PPE will be completed by end-June 2012.	30 June 2012
Invest NI	Engagement of a Global Innovation Specialist	30/09/2011	The Global Innovation Advisor Programme has been subject to an interim evaluation. The PPE relating to this specific consultancy assignment is currently underway.	31 January 2012
Invest NI	Invest NI - Consultancy - ERDF Verification Checks	31/07/2011	The timeframe for this exercise was extended to end of September 2011 to complete further verification of claimed amounts. The PPE is consequently delayed. It is anticipated that a PPE will be completed by end-February 2012.	29 February 2012
Invest NI	Appointment of full service advertising agency for Invest NI business information website nibusinessinfo.co.uk - NIBS	30/09/2011	The PPE for this project is currently in final draft. Invest NI is seeking some additional financial information in order to complete the evaluation.	31 January 2012