

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

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To: Alban Maginness
Chairperson

cc Daithí McKay

Date: 23 February 2012

CHAIR'S BRIEF FOR THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN SOUTH EASTERN REGIONAL COLLEGE, VICTORIA AVENUE, NEWTOWNARDS ON 23 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 10.30AM.

Note to Chair: before the meeting you may wish to discuss with members the approach to taking oral evidence for the inquiry so as to ensure the key issues are covered. Remind members there will be a short tour of the premises following the meeting.

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 **Alasdair McDonnell, Robin Newton**. **Ask** members if they have any further apologies.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes of meeting held on 16 February 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 included in papers at **Tab 2** is an invite for the Chair and Deputy Chair to an award presentation for the first Software Tester's Academy on 5 March 2012.
- 5. Ask** members if they are content to include on the public forward work programme - Thursday 1 March a written brief on the potential impacts of drafting planning policy statement 16 on tourism development.

6. **Inform** members that **tabled** today is a response to the Chair from the Secretary of State with regards to the Committee seeking support for further amendments to the proposal for the regulations of Northern Ireland credit unions by the FSA.

Agenda Item 4 – Matters arising from 16 February 2012 meeting

Oil Firing Technical Association (OFTEC)

7. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 3**.
8. **Advise** members that included in the papers is correspondence from the Environment Committee on the Oil Firing Technical Association.
9. **Remind** members that it was agreed at last week's meeting for the Chair and Deputy Chair to meet with OFTEC.

Green New Deal

10. **Remind** members that at last week's meeting members agreed to write to ask the Department if the allocation of £12m set aside for Green New Deal was still in place for this purpose.
11. **Inform** members the Department has advised that an inter-departmental group, chaired by DSD, is considering this issue. The inter-departmental group has received a number of draft business plans from the Green New Deal and has responded with queries and comments as well as looking at alternative models.
12. **(10.45am) Agenda Item 5 – The Work of the SERC's Environmental Skills Centre: South Eastern Regional College:- Oral Briefing**
13. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 4** and includes SERC's response to the Inquiry. The Clerk has provided a briefing paper with background and summary of content.
14. **Inform** members SERC has created a dedicated resource on the Newtownards Campus to support businesses to overcome the challenge of the transition to a low carbon economy, focused on delivering practical skill solutions through a number of resources at the Environmental skills Centre.
15. **Inform** members that briefing the Committee today are Mr. Ken Webb, Chief Executive, Mr. Thompson Keating, Director of Corporate and Economic Development, SERC.

16. (11.30am) Agenda Item 6 – Inquiry into Research Development: Confederation of British Industry (CBI)

17. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 5**.

18. **Inform** members included in the papers is CBI's written response to the Inquiry. The Clerk has provided a briefing paper with background and summary of content.

19. **Advise** members that a response to the Inquiry has been received from the Committee for OFMDFM and has been included in members inquiry folders.

20. **Remind** members that the purpose of the R&D Inquiry is to identify barriers to innovation, research & development and to make recommendations on how these barriers can be overcome.

21. **Inform** members that briefing the Committee today are Mr Kirsty McManus, Assistant Regional Director CBI, Dr Paul Beaney, Technical Director, Cherry Pipes Ltd., Mr Stephen Sloan, Project Manager, Momentum.

22. Following the briefing **ask** CBI representatives if they are content to answer any further questions in writing that the Committee may have regarding this issue.

23. **Inform** members a meeting took place with Jim Nicholson MEP regarding the Committee's Inquiry into Research & Development on Monday 20 February. **Tabled** today are the interview notes.

24. **Ask** members if they are content to receive oral evidence from the Agri-Food and Bioscience Institute (AFBI) for the R&D inquiry on the 22 March.

Agenda Item 7 – Assembly Research: EU SME Envoy Network – Stakeholder Event Briefing Paper: Written Briefing

25. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 6** and include a written briefing from Assembly Research on the EU SME Envoy Network Stakeholder Event.

26. **Ask** members if they have any comments.

27. **Ask** members if they are content to forward the briefing note to the SME Envoy, the Department, the Committee for OFMDFM and to all the organisations who participated in the event.

Agenda Item 8 – The Public Bodies (Abolition of the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) Order 2012:- Written Briefing

28. Advise members that the papers on this item are at **Tab 7** and include a letter from the Minister to the Chair and the draft Statutory Rule. The Clerk has provided a background paper with summary and content.
29. **Ask** members if they have any comments.
30. **Advise** members that, as the consent of the Assembly is required, the legislation on the abolition of NESTA will be the subject of a motion in the House, probably during week commencing 5th March.
31. **Ask** members if they are content with the proposals.

Agenda Item 9 – Correspondence

32. **Inform** members that the following items of correspondence are at **Tab 8**.

- i. Correspondence from Include Youth on the dissolution of the Department of Employment and Learning. **Ask** members if they are content to note.
- ii. Letter to the Chair from the Minister on the response to SAGE and recommendations to the Executive Committee. Included are the Executive Summary of the SAGE report and the Government's Response to SAGE report and the recommendations.
- iii. Background on the Fuel Poverty Coalition and its position on the fuel poverty issue received from the Social Development Committee. **Ask** members if they are content to note.
- iv. **Tabled today** a response by the Department to the Environment Committee regarding renewable fuel targets. **Ask** members if they are content to note.
- v. Letter from the Consumer Council on their Corporate Plan and Equality Plan 2011-15. **Ask** members if they are content to note.

Agenda Item 10 – Any other business

33. **Advise** members that there are no additional items of business. Ask members if they have any additional items of business.

Agenda Item 11 – Date, time and place of next meeting

34. The next meeting of the Committee will be on **1st March 2012, Room 30 Parliament Buildings at 10.30 am.**