

**Public Service Commission
Minutes of Proceedings**

**10:30 am, Tuesday 30 June 2009
Boardroom 10 Cromac Place
The Gasworks**

Present: Mr Sid McDowell (Chairman)
Mr Brian Hanna
Professor Bernard Cullen
Mr Jim McCusker
Mr Dessie Mitchell
Dr Collim Patton

In Attendance: Miss Susan Dornan
Mrs Gillian McKeown

1. Apologies

An apology from Brenda McLaughlin was noted.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 22 May 2009

The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Consultation on Establishment of Transition Committees in Statute

The Chairman advised that the Commission had responded to the consultation and that the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill had been introduced to the Assembly on 22 June. Commissioners briefly discussed the role of the Transition Committees as employers.

Agreed: The role of the Transition Committees as employers to be raised with Ian Maye and Adrian Kerr at the meeting scheduled for 24 July.

Draft Guidance Note on 5th Guiding Principle

The Chairman advised that he had written to John McMillen, OFMDFM, indicating that the draft note should not be disseminated until the Commission had the opportunity to see a revised version. Commissioners were informed that Central Personnel Group would be addressing the Commission's concerns in writing.

Follow-up to 9 December event

Commissioners were informed that this is scheduled for 29 July (Lagan Valley Island, Island Civic Centre, Lisburn).

Local Government Staff Commission – Vacancy control query

Commissioners discussed the vacancy control proposals from the LGSC and reached a consensus on the approach to be taken.

Shared Services/Status of Guiding Principles

As the Commission's legal advisor is on holiday until 20 July, Commissioners agreed to postpone the discussion until her return.

Agreed: Secretariat to advise legal advisor accordingly.

Naming convention of Guiding Principles

Commissioners briefly discussed the naming of the Principles.

Agreed: In the interim, the Principles should be referred to as the 'NI Executive Principles as recommended by the Public Service Commission' and the Commission website amended accordingly.

4. Education and Skills Authority – update

The Chairman provided a summary of the developments to date including the correspondence with the Department of Education, the Commission's numerous offers of invitations to meet, and the lack of substantive responses to a number of the points raised by the Commission. Commissioners discussed the unacceptable position which had come to light in the Education sector and the options for proceeding.

Agreed: The Chairman to contact the Permanent Secretary, Department of Education, to arrange an urgent meeting.

5. Compliance/Lessons Learned

The Chairman advised that Derek Baker, Central Personnel Group, was willing to meet with the Commission to discuss the issue. The Chairman had reaffirmed that the Commission's primary concern is with the need to audit; as would be expected as a necessary part of the process of validating the effectiveness of the implementation of public policy.

Agreed: Secretariat to contact Derek Baker's office to arrange a meeting.

6. RPA Progress Reports

Commissioners briefly discussed the monthly reports.

Agreed: Watching brief to be kept on the various Local Government Bills which will include the Staff Transfer Scheme.

7. Chairman's Business

The Chairman provided Commissioners with an overview of his meeting with John McMillen on 17 June. Commissioners were also informed that a draft Foreword had been sent to the RPA Central Unit for use in the Compendium of Principles being produced.

8. Northern Ireland Assembly/Executive Developments

The Chairman advised that a Ministerial Statement was due to be made today reinforcing that the Principles recommended to the Executive by the Commission apply to Local Government.

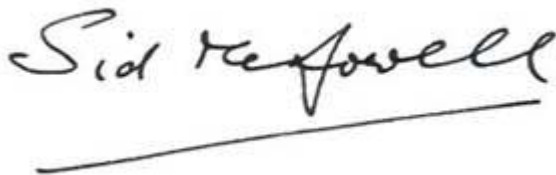
9. Any Other Business

Agreed: The dates for the next two Commission meetings were agreed as follows:

- 2.15pm 8 September, and
- 10.30am 7 October.

10. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28 July at 10.30am.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sid McDowell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

SID MCDOWELL
Chairman