

**Public Service Commission  
Minutes of Proceedings**

**2:30pm, Thursday 13 January 2011  
Boardroom, 10 Cromac Place  
The Gasworks**

Present: Mr Sid McDowell (Chairman)  
Professor Bernard Cullen  
Mrs Brenda McLaughlin  
Mr Jim McCusker  
Mr Dessie Mitchell  
Dr Collim Patton  
Mr Mervyn Rankin

In Attendance: Mrs Pat Stringer  
Mrs Gillian McKeown

**1. Apologies**

No apologies.

**2. Minutes of Meeting of 16 December 2010**

The minutes were agreed.

**3. Matters arising**

Jim noted that the Department of the Environment's spending and savings proposals had been published on their website.

**Agreed:** Secretariat to read through document to extract any pertinent information.

**4. Education - update**

The Department of Education has commenced its Voluntary Severance Scheme. Commissioners had a full discussion on developments to date. They considered it necessary to obtain an update from the Department of Education on the progress or otherwise with the proposed early severance arrangements.

**Agreed:** Sid to contact Paul Sweeney to request information on the early severance arrangements

## **5. Local Government update**

Commissioners considered a response to the Local Government Reform Policy Proposals Consultation Document. Commissioners expressed disappointment that the consultation document made no reference to the Public Service Commission nor to the Guiding Principles which had been recommended to Government by the Commission and which had been accepted by the Executive; a number of suggestions were made for inclusion in the PSC response to the consultation document in relation to Questions 44 and 45.

It was noted that Question 16 in the consultation document referred to Members of Councils but that there was a need for some form of protocol governing the relationship between Members and Officers particularly, but not exclusively, relating to the difficult interface which could develop on planning matters. It was agreed that the Commission should respond appropriately to the consultation on this aspect.

**Agreed:** It was agreed that Commission staff would prepare a response to the consultation document which would reflect the views expressed in relation to Questions 16, 44 and 45.

## **6. Chairman's Business**

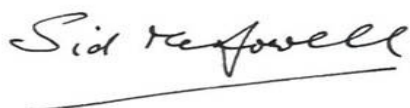
The Chairman indicated that Gillian would probably be leaving the Commission at the end of March as she would be moving home to Armagh; he said that a suitable opportunity for valedictory remarks would arise at a future Commission meeting.

## **7. Any Other Business**

None.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 2 March 2011 at 2:30pm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sid McDowell". A horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature.

Sid McDowell CBE

Chairman