

**Public Service Commission
Minutes of Proceedings**

**10:30 am, Friday 22 May 2009
Boardroom 10 Cromac Place
The Gasworks**

Present: Mr Brian Hanna (Acting Chair)
Professor Bernard Cullen
Mr Jim McCusker
Mrs Brenda McLaughlin
Mr Dessie Mitchell
Dr Collim Patton

In Attendance: Miss Susan Dornan
Mrs Gillian McKeown

1. Apologies

The apology from Sid McDowell was noted. Commissioners agreed that Brian Hanna would chair today's meeting.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 23 April 2009

The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Consultation on Establishment of Transition Committees in Statute

Commissioners briefly discussed the consultation document and agreed to respond in two areas.

Agreed: Secretariat to respond to the consultation on two areas - supporting the extension of the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) to provide support for the Transition Committees and the need for a power of direction.

Agreed: Secretariat to clarify if the power of direction is to be addressed in the Contracts and Purchase Bill.

Local Government Staff Commission – Vacancy control update

The Acting Chair advised that the LGSC has completed its consultation on the draft Vacancy Control System and it had been agreed to postpone its introduction until Autumn of 2009.

Agreed: Secretariat to ask for a report on the work and outcomes of the Local Government HR Forum which is being established.

LGSC extension – update

The Acting Chair advised that the Minister had reaffirmed, in response to an assembly question on 26 March 2009, that the future of the LGSC would be considered as part of the first review in 2012.

Follow-up to 9 December event – update

The LGSC is working on an event for HR officers and Chief Execs which will combine the learning from the research and experience in Education and Health, with a workshop session to begin a process of developing a model HR Plan.

5th Guiding Principle and draft Guidance Note – update

Commissioners felt very strongly that the draft Guidance Note did not adequately reflect the Guiding Principle on Voluntary Severance and wanted to see a revised version before it issued.

Agreed: Secretariat to write to John McMillen highlighting the Commission's concerns and stating that, in the Commission's view, the Note should not issue until it had seen the revised draft.

Education and Skills Authority – update

Commissioners discussed the tabled response from Will Haire, Permanent Secretary Education. Although progress appeared to have been made on a number of issues, Commissioners considered that clarification was required on some areas and that it did not appear that staff have been fairly treated and their interests protected.

Agreed: Secretariat to write to the Permanent Secretary along agreed lines.

4. Shared Services/Status of Guiding Principles

Commissioners were advised that Beverley Jones had commenced work on drafting a high level Guiding Principle on public procurement and an update would be available at the next Commission meeting.

5. Compliance/Lessons Learned

Commissioners reaffirmed their desire for an assessment of progress being made in implementing the Guiding Principles and that a partnership approach should be taken with Government.

Agreed: Secretariat to write to Derek Baker requesting a meeting with officials, Sid McDowell and Desmond Mitchell with a view to encouraging partnership working. Secretariat to give consideration to drawing up a Guiding Principle on Compliance.

6. RPA Progress Reports

Commissioners briefly discussed the monthly reports. A number of issues were identified which had possible implications for local government.

Agreed: Ian Maye, DoE to be invited to give an update on the local government sector at the next Commission meeting on 30 June.

7. Chairman's Business

None.

9. Northern Ireland Assembly/Executive Developments

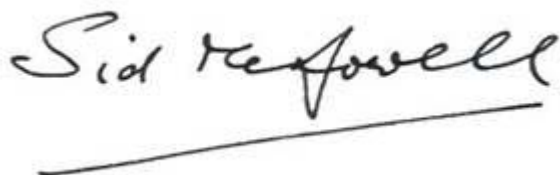
The delay in transferring the planning function, and implications for other areas, was briefly discussed.

10. Any Other Business

Agreed: Commissioners to consider naming of the Guiding Principles at the next meeting.

11. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 30 June at 10.30am.


A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sid McDowell", is written above a horizontal line.