



**Public Service Commission
Minutes of Proceedings**

**2pm, Thursday 26 March 2009
Boardroom 10 Cromac Place
The Gasworks**

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

In Attendance: Miss Susan Dornan
Mrs Gillian McKeown

Paul Simpson - Deputy Secretary, Local Government,
Planning and Environmental Policy (item 3)
Ian Maye - Director Local Government, Planning and
Environmental Policy (item 3)

1. Apologies

There were no apologies. The Chairman welcomed Gillian McKeown who has joined the Secretariat on a part-time basis to provide administrative / executive support.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 23 February 2009

The minutes were agreed.

3. DoE Delegation

Ian Maye and Paul Simpson briefed the Commission on progress within DoE. The discussion which ensued included powers of direction; applicability of the Executive's Guiding Principles to Local Government; the LGSC being included in a review of new Councils one year after their establishment; planning reform and funding.

Agreed: DoE to move Local Government Staff Commission (which is an organisation subject to review as part of the RPA) to the RPA Affected Group.

4. Matters Arising

Codes of Practice/Guidance Notes Update

Commissioners noted that guidance notes/Code of Practice on the Executive's Guiding Principles 2, 3 and 4 have been agreed and will issue through RPA Central Unit.

Agreed: Once finalised, the distribution list of the booklet on the Executive's Guiding Principles and Code of Practice/Guidance Notes to include Councillors.

5th Guiding Principle

The Chairman advised that the final version of the 5th Guiding Principle had been submitted to OFMDFM on a without prejudice basis to the Executive's agreement.

Action: Draft guidance note to be reviewed on issue.

Temporary transfer arrangements

Commissioners had been copied on the DHSSPS Staff Transfers Arrangements document (for NICS staff from DHSSPS transferring to new HSC organisations). The Chairman advised that TUS had reserved its position.

Committee for Finance and Personnel Public Procurement Enquiry

The Chairman informed Commissioners of the reasoning behind not making a submission to the Enquiry. The issues relating to shared services transferred to the private sector were many and complex and it was considered advisable to concentrate on establishing a definitive PSC policy position.

Consultation on RPA Affected Group

Commissioners received an explanation of the rationale for the inclusion/exclusion of some of the groups from the RPA Affected Group from the RPA Central Unit. The unit has advised that a new list is due to issue in April.

Local Government Staff Commission Report

The Chairman advised that a letter had been sent to Paul Simpson supporting the extension of the LGSC up until November 2011. This was on a without prejudice to the need for the Local Government Staff Commission to continue to exist beyond November 2011.

5. RPA Progress Reports

Commissioners noted the progress reports supplied on Local Government, NILA and Health. The discussion on the education sector report was left

until later in the meeting. Commissioners were given an update on the progress on the Bain report.

Agreed: the Executive's Guiding Principles to be checked for references to consistency across sectors eg with respect to severance schemes.

6. Compliance/Lessons Learned

Commissioners had received a paper on compliance from D Baker in Central Personnel Group dated 25 March.

Agreed: To be an agenda item at the next meeting when Commissioners will have had an opportunity to consider the paper in detail.

7. Role of PSC in Shared Services/Status of Executive's Guiding Principles

Commissioners discussed the draft paper on shared services which had been tabled at the last Commission meeting. The discussion included which of the Executive's Guiding Principles should be included in addition to Guiding Principle 3 (eg location) and the possible mechanisms of ensuring that staff transferring with a function to the private sector would have the same protections afforded by the Executive's Guiding Principles.

Agreed: The Executive's Guiding Principles to be reviewed for elements which need to be protected. Legal advice to be sought on how best to protect these elements in procurement contracts for functions being transferred to the private sector. This will inform the drafting of a Guiding Principle.

8. Chairman's Business

None.

9. Northern Ireland Assembly/Executive Developments

None.

10. Any Other Business

Commissioners discussed the education progress update, the RRVS Strategy and Director Level Strategy which are to be discussed with the education sector delegation tomorrow.

11. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd April at 10am.

Sid Rowell
