



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITIES

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 1 December 2016
Room 29 Parliament Buildings

Present: Michelle Gildernew MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Steven Agnew MLA
Andy Allen MLA
Jonathan Bell MLA
Fra McCann MLA
Adrian McQuillan MLA
Christopher Stalford MLA

In Attendance: Kevin Pelan (Assembly Clerk)
Ashleigh Mitford (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Paula Best (Clerical Supervisor)
Stewart Kennedy (Clerical Supervisor)
Stephanie Wilson (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Colum Eastwood MLA (Chairperson)
Naomi Long MLA
Nichola Mallon MLA
Carál Ní Chuilín MLA

The meeting commenced in open session at 10:20 am

1. Apologies

Apologies are recorded above

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting of 24 November 2016 were agreed.

3. Chairperson's Business

No items were raised

4. Matters Arising

Agreed: The Committee agreed a draft Press Release in relation to the Committee's visit to Stella Maris and Housing First on 8 December 2016.

The Chairperson reminded members that they have been invited to attend and participate in the Chartered Institute of Housing Event at the Pavilion, Stormont which will begin at 2.00pm the same day.

The Chairperson reminded members that the Committee has been asked to provide a submission to the Committee for the Executive Office on its views on European priorities for the year ahead.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office to the Department for Communities, seeking an update on their European priorities.

5. Draft Programme for Government Action Plans – Departmental Briefing - Anti-Poverty

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department in relation to all four sessions on Draft Programme for Government Action Plans.

The Committee noted a briefing paper from the Clerk.

The following officials joined the meeting at 10:25am

- Dr Denis McMahon, Deputy Secretary
- Mr David Malcolm, Temporary Director of Inclusion and Social Chang
- Mr Richard O'Flaherty, Assistant Director Social Inclusion

The officials briefed the Committee and this was followed by questions from members.

The officials left the meeting at 11:00 am

6. Draft Programme for Government Action Plans – Departmental Briefing - Cultural Participation

The Committee noted a briefing paper from the Clerk.

The following officials joined the meeting at 11 am

- Ms Patricia McAuley, Director - Culture Division

- Mrs Carol McCabe, Community Cohesion

The officials briefed the Committee and this was followed by questions from members.

Christopher Stalford joined the meeting at 11:11 am

The officials left the meeting at 11:38 am

7. Draft Programme for Government Action Plans – Departmental Briefing – Housing and Disability Indicators

The Committee noted briefing papers from the Clerk.

The following officials joined the meeting at 11:39 am

- Mr Andrew Hamilton, Deputy Secretary
- Mr Ian Snowden, Acting Deputy Secretary of Resources and Social Policy Group (RSPG)
- Ms Martina Hanna, Community Regeneration & Housing

The officials briefed the Committee and this was followed by questions from members.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek additional information from the Department

The officials left the meeting at 12:20 pm

8. Draft Programme for Government Action Plans – Departmental Briefing - Economic Inactivity

The Committee noted a briefing paper from the Clerk.

The following officials joined the meeting at 12:21pm

- Mr Tommy O'Reilly, Deputy Secretary, DfC; and
- Ms Sharron Russell, Assistant Director Working Age, DfC.

The officials briefed the Committee and this was followed by questions from members.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek additional information from the Department

Stephen Agnew left the meeting at 12:55 pm

The officials left the meeting at 12:58 pm

9. The Housing Benefit and State Pension Credit (Temporary Absence) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 - Departmental Briefing

The Committee noted the SL1 and related correspondence.

The following officials to the meeting at 12:58 pm:

- Bronagh Ramsden
- Rosemary Hughes: Deputy Head of Working Age team

The officials briefed the Committee and this was followed by questions from members.

The officials left the meeting at 1:06pm

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Rule to be made.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer the agenda item on the Licensing and Regeneration of Clubs Amendment Bill due to pressures on quorum.

10. The Pension 2015 Act (Revaluation for Transitional Pensions) Order (NI) 2016

The Committee noted the SL1

Agreed: The Committee was content for the Rule to be made.

11. Correspondence

The Committee noted a correspondence memo.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to issue an invitation to Home Sweet Home to attend the Committee's Homelessness event in February.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a meeting with NILGA in the new year to discuss recently debated local government issues.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content to action all other correspondence as outlined on the correspondence memo

12. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted its draft Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft FWP

13. AOB

No items were raised

14. Date, time and location of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Communities will take place on Thursday 8 December 2016 at 10.00 am in room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1:14 pm

Chairperson, Committee for Communities

8 December 2016