



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 21st November 2013

Room 29, Parliament Buildings

Present: Mr Alex Maskey MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Mickey Brady MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Jim Allister MLA
Ms Paula Bradley MLA
Mr Gregory Campbell MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mr Michael Copeland MLA
Ms Dolores Kelly MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA
Mr Sammy Wilson MLA

In Attendance: Dr Kevin Pelan (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Patricia Casey (Bill Clerk)
Mrs Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stephen Orme (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stephen Todd (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Miss Allison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: *No apologies.*

The Chairperson declared the meeting open to the public at 10.05 am.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Draft Minutes

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 14th November were agreed.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised the Committee of a letter received from UNITE the Union, following their meeting with the Committee on 3 October.

The Committee agreed to have the Chair meet UNITE on the Committee's behalf.

The Committee agreed to write to the Department, seeking an update on when alcohol licensing and gambling reform proposals will be forthcoming.

The Committee agreed to write to the Department regarding a delay in implementing a 1% pay increase awarded to NIHE staff in July 2013.

4. Matters Arising

The Chairperson reminded the Committee of the presentation received from the Department at the meeting of 14th October, concerning the outcome of public consultation into Business Improvement District's regulations.

The Committee agreed to consider a paper provided by the Department in advance of a discussion of the matter at the meeting of the 28th October, so that the Committee can agree its response to the Department.

5. Licensing of Pavement Cafés: Formal Clause-by-Clause

The following officials joined the meeting at 10.09 am:

- Mr Liam Quinn, DSD
- Mr Gary McAlorum, DSD

The officials briefed the Committee on the consolidated list of amendments brought forward by the Department. Officials then took questions from the Members.

The Committee then moved to formal clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 1 was agreed, as amended by the Department.

Clauses 2 to 13 were agreed as drafted.

Clause 14 was agreed, as amended by the Department.

Clauses 15 to 18 were agreed as drafted.
Clause 19 was agreed, as amended by the Department.
Clause 20 was agreed as drafted.
Clause 21 was agreed, as amended by the Department.
Clauses 22 to 29 were agreed as drafted.
Clause 30 was agreed, as amended by the Department.
Clauses 31 and 32 were agreed as drafted.
The Schedule was agreed, as amended by the Department.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

The officials left the meeting at 10.24 am.

6. Neighbourhood Renewal Programme – Departmental Briefing

The following officials joined the meeting at 10.25 am:

- Allison Chambers, Neighbourhood Renewal Policy Unit, DSD
- Michael Daly, acting deputy secretary, Urban Regeneration & Community Development Group

The officials briefed the Committee on the progress of the programme. The officials then took questions from Members.

Trevor Clarke MLA joined the meeting at 10.35 am.

Michael Copeland MLA left the meeting at 10.37 am.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

The officials left the meeting at 10.54 am.

Due to the absence of an official scheduled to brief the Committee, agenda item 7 (Review of Campbell-Tickell Report) was delayed; other agenda items were considered.

7. Statutory Rule: SL1 The Occupational Pensions (Revaluation) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013

The Committee considered the above mentioned proposed Statutory Rule and agreed that it was content for the Rule to be made.

8. Correspondence

The Chairperson noted the upcoming Fuel Poverty Coalition Annual Conference, to be held on 27 November 2013. Mickey Brady MLA, Michael Copeland MLA and Dolores Kelly MLA indicated their intent to attend this conference.

The Committee noted all other correspondence.

9. Forward Work Programme

The Committee was content with the proposed Forward Work Programme.

Paula Bradley MLA left the meeting at 10.54 am.

10. Any Other Business

Dolores Kelly MLA requested, and the Committee agreed, for a Departmental update on the planning process and number of houses to be delivered for the Girdwood barracks site.

11. Review of Campbell-Tickell Report – Briefing by Chairperson of NIHE

The following official joined the meeting at 11.01 am:

- Donald Hoodless, Chairperson, NIHE

The official briefed the Committee.

Paula Bradley MLA returned to the meeting at 11.03 am.

The official then took questions from Members which reflected their serious concerns about the report's perceived deficiencies. Members in particular highlighted the lack of evidence to underpin the stated range of overpayments in the report

Members also queried whether in fact the Chair of the NIHE was aware of evidence to suggest that contractors had in fact been underpaid.

Members also noted the identified deficiencies in NIHE governance and contractual management controls in respect of planned maintenance and were particularly alarmed to find that internal an NIHE audit report had been altered before being submitted to the NIHE Board for consideration.

Michael Copeland MLA left the meeting at 11.51 am.

Michael Copeland MLA returned to the meeting at 11.56 am.

Fra McCann MLA left the meeting at 11.59 am.

Fra McCann MLA returned to the meeting at 12.05 pm.

Paula Bradley MLA left the meeting at 12.31 pm.

Michael Copeland MLA left the meeting at 12.31 pm.

Michael Copeland MLA returned to the meeting at 12.36 pm.

Michael Copeland left the meeting at 12.40 pm.

Paula Bradley MLA returned to the meeting at 12.40 pm.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

The official left the meeting at 12.41 pm.

The Committee agreed to request the original, unedited draft of the Campbell-Tickell report.

12. Inquiry

12.1 BBC

The Committee agreed to take legal advice regarding the letter received from BBC Litigation.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12.45 pm.

The meeting was recommenced in public session at 12.51 pm.

Present: Mr Alex Maskey MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Mickey Brady MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Jim Allister MLA
Ms Paula Bradley MLA
Ms Dolores Kelly MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA

In Attendance: Dr Kevin Pelan (Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stephen Orme (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stephen Todd (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Miss Allison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

12.2 Evidence Session

The following official joined the meeting at 12.52 pm:

- Giles Willson, Deputy Chief Executive of the Glass and Glazing Federation

The official gave evidence to the Committee, and took questions from Members.

Stewart Dickson joined the meeting at 12.53 pm.

Sammy Wilson MLA joined the meeting at 12.53 pm.

Trevor Clarke MLA joined the meeting at 12.55 pm.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

12.3 Fusion 21

The Chairperson advised Members that the Committee has written to Fusion 21 requesting further clarification on any meetings with the Minister for Social Development, after 23 April 2012.

12.4 Witnesses Phase Two

The Committee noted the Clerk's memo regarding calling witnesses for Phase Two of the Inquiry and agreed with Approach One.

13. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at 10.00 am on Thursday 28th November in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.34 pm.

Mr Alex Maskey

**Chairperson, Committee for Social Development
28 November 2013**