



# Northern Ireland Assembly

## COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**THURSDAY 28 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 Trevor Clarke MLA  
Mr Michael Copeland MLA  
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA  
Mr Fra McCann MLA  
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA  
Mr Sammy Wilson MLA

In Attendance: Dr Kevin Pelan (Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Claire McCanny (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Stephen Orme (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Stephen Todd (Assistant Assembly Clerk)

The Chairperson declared the meeting open to the public at 10.06am.

#### **1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

#### **2. Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 November 2013**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting held on 14 November were agreed.

### **3. Chairperson's Business**

3.1 The Chairperson advised the Committee that Fra McCann MLA yesterday represented him at a PPR event – Homeless not Voiceless and that Mickey Brady MLA took part in a panel discussion at the Fuel Poverty Coalition Conference, as Deputy Chair of the Committee.

3.2 The Chairperson advised the Committee that the Assembly's Legal Service will brief the Committee next week on a letter received from the BBC regarding the Committee's request for information.

*Gregory Campbell MLA joined the meeting at 10.11 am.*

*Michael Copeland MLA joined the meeting at 10.12 am.*

### **4. Matters Arising**

The Chairperson reminded members to advise Committee staff whether they wished to receive their information pack in hardcopy or electronic version.

*Dolores Kelly MLA joined the meeting at 10.15 am.*

### **5. Licensing of Pavement Cafés Bill – Draft Bill Report**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to formally consider the Draft Bill Report at the next meeting, on 5 December.

*This session was recorded by Hansard.*

### **6. Social Housing Reform Programme – Departmental Briefing**

The following officials joined the meeting at 10.28am:

- Mr Andrew Hamilton, Deputy Secretary, DSD
- Mr Jim Wilkinson, Director of Housing, DSD
- Mrs Deirdre Ward, Deputy Director of Housing, DSD

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 10.30 am.*

*Stewart Dickson MLA left the meeting at 10.30 am.*

Members raised concerns about the quality of stakeholder and politician engagement, the corporate governance of simultaneous NIHE and DSD programmes, and the cost of the programme itself.

*Stewart Dickson MLA returned to the meeting at 10.53 am.*

*Michael Copeland MLA left the meeting at 11.00 am.*

*Paula Bradley MLA left the meeting at 11.06 am.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request a copy of the original Terms of Reference of the Social Housing Reform Programme.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request a breakdown of the estimated £12 million that will be spent by the Programme on consultants.

*Paula Bradley MLA returned to the meeting at 11.17 am.*

*Dolores Kelly MLA left the meeting at 11.25 am.*

The officials left the meeting at 11.28 am.

## **7. Consideration of BIDs regulations**

The Chairperson advised that the Committee received a briefing from the Department on its consultation on BIDs regulations and the meeting on 14 November and that it was agreed that the Committee would reconvene on the matter today to agree its response.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the proposed response to the Department.

## **8. Consideration of Campbell Tickell Report**

The Committee received a briefing from the Chair of the NIHE on the Campbell Tickell Report into planned maintenance contracts at its meeting on 21 November. Members agreed that they had received the report too late to give it adequate consideration and would return to the matter this week.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the NIHE seeking clarification from the Chair of the Board on a range of issues relating to the Campbell-Tickell report and on information received by the Committee from the contractors to whom this report relates.

*Dolores Kelly MLA returned at 11.44 am.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite the consultants appointed by the NIHE and the contractors to give evidence on the agreed process to establish whether overpayments were made and if so the level of overpayments.

The Committee also agreed to hear from the contractors on this issue.

## **9. Subordinate Legislation**

### **Statutory Rule: ST 263 / 2013 The Pensions (2005 Order) ( Code of Practice) (Governance and Administration of Occupational Defined Contribution Trust-based Pension Schemes) (Appointed Day) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content to note the order.

*Gregory Campbell MLA left the meeting at 11.46 am.*

## **10. Committee Inquiry**

The Chairperson reminded members that the Minister is scheduled to attend the Committee meeting on 12 December and that the Committee is currently awaiting a response from Mrs McConnaghie.

The Committee agreed to review its evidence, following the briefing by the Minister, to determine whether to call new witnesses or to recall witnesses who had already briefed the Committee.

## **11. Correspondence**

11.1 The Chairperson noted correspondence from the Department in reference to proposals for new legislation to in relation to Short Secure Tenancy and measures to tackle anti-social behaviour. The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a briefing on the matter.

11.2 The Committee noted correspondence as outlined in the correspondence memo.

## **12. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee was content with the proposed Forward Work Programme.

## **13. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **14. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place at 10.00 am on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.46 am.

**Mr Mickey Brady**

**Deputy Chairperson, Committee for Social Development  
5 December 2013**