



# Northern Ireland Assembly

## COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**THURSDAY 5 December 2013**

**Room 29, Parliament Buildings**

Present: 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  
Mr Fra McCann MLA  
Mr Stewart Dickson 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)  
Miss Allison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Alex Maskey MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Sammy Wilson MLA

The Committee commenced in closed session at 10.09 am.

The Chairperson declared the meeting open to the public at 11.03 am.

*Jim Allister MLA left the meeting at 11.03 am.*

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were as noted above.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to Alex Maskey MLA, expressing sympathy on his recent family bereavement.

## **2. Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 November 2013**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting held on 28 November were agreed.

*Michael Copeland MLA left the meeting at 11.05 am.*

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

There was no Chairperson's Business.

## **4. Matters Arising**

The Deputy Chairperson reminded Members that, following last week's discussion, the Committee had requested clarification from the Chair of the Housing Executive on a range of issues, and notified the Committee that the Clerk had circulated a draft letter to that end, for discussion at the meeting.

The Deputy Chairperson also drew Member's attention to correspondence received from a kitchen manufacturer who expressed concern about future planned maintenance contracts, and also states that they believe only 18,000 kitchens were fitted over a 5-year period, not the 60,000 repeatedly referred to. The Deputy Chairperson therefore asked for the draft letter to include a request for the NIHE to provide the Committee with the actual number of kitchens fitted.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content for the letter, as amended, to be issued to the Chair of the Housing Executive.

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

The Deputy Chairperson reminded members that the Bill had been agreed clause-by-clause at the meeting of 21 November, and sought agreement on the Committee Report.

*Agreed:*

The Committee agreed paragraphs 7-16 of the Report, outlining the Committee's recommendations in relation to the Bill.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 17-25, which is the Introduction of the Bill Report.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 26-113, which records the oral evidence taking during Committee stage, both from stakeholders and the Department.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 114-150, outlining the Committee's clause-by-clause scrutiny of the Bill.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 1-6, the Executive Summary of the Report.

The Committee agreed “*That the Report be the Sixth Report of the Social Development Committee to the Assembly.*”

The Committee agreed for the Report to be printed on 12 December 2013.

## **6. Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework – Departmental Briefing**

The following officials joined the meeting at 11.11 am:

- Tony McKibben, Head of Urban Policy Branch – DSD
- Michael Donnelly, Director of Voluntary and Community Unit – DSD
- Stephen Martin, Deputy Director of Housing Policy Delivery – DSD
- Sinead Crossan, Social Welfare Policy – DSD

The officials briefed the Committee.

*Michael Copeland MLA joined the meeting at 11.13 am.*

The officials then took questions from the Committee.

*Trevor Clarke MLA joined the meeting at 11.18 am.*

*Trevor Clarke MLA left the meeting at 11.20 am.*

*Trevor Clarke MLA joined the meeting at 11.23 am.*

*Gregory Campbell MLA left the meeting at 11.28 am.*

*Paula Bradley MLA left the meeting at 11.35 am.*

*Paula Bradley MLA returned at 11.47 am.*

The officials left the meeting at 11.55 am.

## **7. Statutory Rule SR 277/2013 The Social Security (Age-related Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013**

The Committee considered the above

The question was put and agreed:

*That the Committee for Social Development has considered Statutory Rule: SR 277/2013 The Social Security (Age-Related Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report has no objections to the Rule.*

## **8. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the correspondence as outlined in the Correspondence Memo.

## **9. Affordable Warmth Pilot Scheme – Departmental Briefing**

The following officials joined the meeting at 11.57am:

- Stephen Martin, Housing Division, DSD
- Eilish O'Neill, Housing Division, DSD
- Oliver McHugh, Housing Division, DSD

The officials briefed the Committee on the key findings and the next phase of the Pilot and then took questions from Members.

*Stewart Dickson MLA left the meeting at 12.07 pm.*

*Stewart Dickson MLA joined the meeting at 12.17 pm.*

The officials left the meeting at 12.22 pm.

*Michael Copeland MLA left the meeting at 12.22 pm.*

## **10. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee agreed to reschedule the briefing for the January Monitoring Round to 9 January and agreed the Forward Work Programme as amended.

## **11. Any Other Business**

The Committee noted that the next meeting, of the 12<sup>th</sup> December, will be the last meeting before recess.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the first meeting after the Christmas recess will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> January.

## **12. Adjourn**

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 12 December 2013 at 10.00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.24 pm.

**Mr Alex Maskey**

**Chairperson, Committee for Social Development**

**12 December 2013**