



# Northern Ireland Assembly

## COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Thursday 4 December 2014**  
**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 Maurice Devenney MLA  
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA  
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA  
Mr Fra McCann MLA  
Mr Sammy Wilson MLA
- In Attendance: Dr Kevin Pelan (Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Ashleigh Mitford (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Stephen Todd (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Stewart Kennedy (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Richard Reid (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: Mr Michael Copeland MLA

The Chairperson declared the meeting open to the public at 10.07am.

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were as noted above.

#### **2. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2014 were agreed.

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2014 were agreed.

### **3. Budget 2015 – 2016 – Departmental Briefing**

The following officials joined the meeting at 10.10am:

- Andrew Hamilton, Deputy Secretary, Department for Social Development
- Deborah Brown, Director of Financial Management, Department for Social Development
- Ian Snowden, Director, Northwest Development Office, Department for Social Development
- Joyce Bill, Finance Director, Social Security Agency

The officials briefed the Committee on the Department's spending and savings proposals in respect of the 2015 – 2016 Draft Budget.

*Sammy Wilson MLA joined the meeting at 10.41am.*

The officials took a range of questions from the Committee.

*Gregory Campbell MLA left the meeting at 11.37am.*

*Dolores Kelly MLA joined the meeting at 11.41am.*

The Chairperson noted that the Committee would be making a submission to the Committee for Finance and Personnel's report on the Budget and to the Department for Social Development's consultation.

The officials noted that the Department intended to release its consultation on the budget proposals today.

*This session was recorded by Hansard.*

### **4. December – January Monitoring Round – Departmental Briefing**

The following officials briefed the Committee at 11.42am:

- Andrew Hamilton, Deputy Secretary, Department for Social Development
- Deborah Brown, Director of Financial Management, Department for Social Development
- Ian Snowden, Director, Northwest Development Office, Department for Social Development
- Joyce Bill, Finance Director, Social Security Agency

The officials briefed the Committee on the December-January monitoring round proposals, noting that the information provided may be subject to change

The officials took a range of questions from the Committee.

The officials left the meeting at 11.52am.

*This session was recorded by Hansard.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Clerk should prepare a draft submission to the Committee for Finance and Personnel for inclusion in its report on the Draft Budget and this should be emailed to Committee members for comment.

#### **5. SL1 – The Social Security (Industrial Injuries) (Prescribed Diseases) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

*Agreed:* The Committee was content for the Department to make the proposed Statutory Rule.

#### **6. Correspondence**

**6.1** The Committee noted that the Minister for Social Development has provided a draft copy of the Regeneration Bill, to be introduced to the Assembly on 8 December 2014. The Committee noted that it would take a briefing on the Regeneration Bill at its meeting on 8 January 2015.

**6.2** The Committee noted correspondence from the West Belfast Partnership seeking to make a presentation to the Committee in respect of budget cuts.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the West Belfast Partnership in the New Year.

**6.3** *Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department in respect of Phase 3 of its Inquiry and agreed to consider this when reviewing evidence.

**6.4** *Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the rest of the correspondence as outlined on the correspondence memo.

#### **7. Forward Work Programme**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the Forward Work Plan as drafted.

#### **8. AOB**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to seek information from the Department on its plans to seek alternative sources of funding, including EU funding.

#### **9. Date, time and place of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on Tuesday 9 December 2014 at 9.30am in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.03pm.

**Alex Maskey**

**Chairperson, Committee for Social Development**

**11 December 2014**