



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 4 June 2015
Room 29, Parliament Buildings

Present: Mr Alex Maskey MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Jim Allister MLA
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Gregory Campbell MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA

In Attendance: Dr Kevin Pelan (Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Ashleigh Mitford (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stewart Kennedy (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Richard Reid (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

The Chairperson commenced the meeting at 10:00am.

1. Apologies

None

2. Pension Schemes Bill – Ministerial Briefing

The Minister and the following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:01am

- Gerry McCann
- Doreen Roy

- Anne McCleary

The Committee noted the Department's submission in relation the Pension Schemes Bill.

10.05 am Gregory Campbell joined the meeting.

The Minister briefed the Committee.

The briefing was followed by questions from members.

The Minister advised Members that the Department would supply additional information in relation to cross-border Pension Schemes.

The Minister and Departmental officials left the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it would write to the Minister to confirm that it is supportive of his intention to seek accelerated passage for the Pension Schemes Bill.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting which was held on 28 May 2015 were agreed.

4. Chairperson's Business

The Committee noted that the Chairperson has been invited to the Inauguration Ceremony of the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China on Monday 8th June 2015.

The Chair asked members to indicate their availability to represent the Committee at an event to join Sir John Elvidge, former Permanent Secretary of the Scottish Government on Wednesday 10th June 2015.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that the Law Centre has invited the Convenor of Scotland's Welfare Reform Committee to talk to the Law Centre's Welfare Reform Group about the work of the Scottish Committee. The Law Centre has also invited the Chairperson to speak and take part in a Q&A session at the event on 3 July.

5. Matters Arising

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Social Development in relation to draft guidelines on the licensing of pavement cafes.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing with Imtac and the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association for 11 June 2015 in order to hear their concerns in relation to the draft guidelines.

6. Review of Supporting People Programme - CRISPP Briefing

The following representatives of CRISPP joined the meeting at 10:33a.m.

- Cameron Watt
- Ricky Rowledge
- Deirdre Canavan
- Chris Alexander

The Committee noted a submission from CRISPP.

The representatives briefed the Committee.

The briefing was followed by questions from members.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a research paper in relation to competitive tendering in England for Supporting People projects.

11:34am Gregory Campbell left the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek further information on a number of issues from NIHE and CRISPP.

The Chairperson assured CRISPP of the Committee's position that funds for the Supporting People Programme should continue to be ring-fenced.

The representatives left the meeting at 11:43a.m.

Due to concerns about quorum the Committee agreed to move on to those aspects of the agenda requiring committee decisions.

7. SL1 The Occupational Pension Schemes (Charges and Governance) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

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

8. SL1 The Social Security (Application of Reciprocal Agreements with Australia, Canada, New Zealand) (EEA States and Switzerland) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

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

9. Correspondence

The Committee considered a correspondence memo.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to action all correspondence as outlined in the correspondence memo.

10. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed its Forward Work Programme.

11. AOB

The Committee noted that the interim Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive has resigned.

12. Evaluation of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy – Departmental Briefing

The following officials joined the meeting at 11:48a.m.

- John Johnston
- Chris Hughes
- Barbara McGread

The Committee noted the Department's submission.

The officials briefed the Committee.

The briefing was followed by questions from members.

The officials left the meeting at 12.19 p.m.

13. Further AOB

The Committee noted that Mickey Brady has resigned as an MLA

Agreed: The Committee agreed a draft letter from the Chairperson expressing the Committee's thanks to Mr Brady for his valued contribution to the work of the Committee.

14. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on 11 June 2015 at 10:00am.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Alex Maskey

Chairperson, Committee for Social Development

11 June 2015