



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 11 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 meeting commenced in closed session at 10.07am.

1. Inquiry Process Issues

The Committee took legal advice in respect of its Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to reschedule postponed Inquiry briefings of 4 December to 8 January 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to respond to the Department's recent letter on procedures relating to the Inquiry as per its received advice.

The Chairperson declared the meeting open to the public at 10.40am.

2. Apologies

Apologies were as noted above.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2014 were agreed.

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2014 were agreed.

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2014 were agreed.

4. Inquiry into allegations, arising from a Spotlight programme aired on 3 July 2013, of impropriety or irregularity relating to NIHE managed contracts and consideration of any resulting actions, Phase 3 – evidence session with Brian Rowntree, former NIHE Chairperson

The following witness joined the meeting at 10.42am:

- Brian Rowntree, former Chairperson of the NIHE

The Committee took evidence from the witness and held a question and answer session on the evidence.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to discuss whether issues in relation to the Rinmore stock transfer should form part of its Inquiry.

Mickey Brady MLA left the meeting at 11.17am.

Maurice Devenney MLA left the meeting at 11.39am.

Gregory Campbell MLA left the meeting at 12.20pm.

The witness left the meeting at 12.35pm.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to postpone the scheduled departmental briefing on the Pensions Schemes Bill to 8 January.

The Chairperson left the meeting at 12.35pm.

The Clerk took the chair for the election of a temporary Chairperson.

Jim Allister MLA moved, *'That Paula Bradley MLA do take the chair of the Committee'*.

Stewart Dickson MLA seconded the motion.

There were no other nominations.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that Paula Bradley MLA take the chair of the Committee.

Paula Bradley MLA took the chair.

5. Charity Registration Procedures – briefing by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (CCNI)

The following officials joined the meeting at 12.40pm:

- Frances McCandless, Chief Executive, CCNI
- Tom McGrath, Chief Charity Commissioner, CCNI

Stewart Dickson MLA declared an interest as a trustee of Greenisland War Memorial Sports Club.

The officials briefed the Committee on charity registration procedures.

Officials took questions from the Committee.

The Chairperson noted that the Committee looked forward to receiving updates on the progress of charity registration.

The officials left the meeting at 1.05pm.

Dolores Kelly MLA joined the meeting at 1.06pm.

6. SR 298 The Occupational Pensions (Revaluation) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee had no objections to the Rule.

The Chairperson read the following motion into the record:

That the Committee for Social Development has considered the Statutory Rule SR 298/2014 The Occupational Pensions (Revaluation) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules' report, has no objections to the Rule.

7. Correspondence

- 7.1** The Committee noted correspondence from the Department in respect of Phase 3 of its Inquiry.

- 7.2** *Agreed:* The Committee considered correspondence from the Department in relation to the Supporting People Programme and agreed to invite Unison to brief the Committee on this issue.
- 7.3** *Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) outlining recommendations in respect of human rights of carers and agreed to schedule a briefing from NIHRC in the New Year.
- 7.4** *Agreed:* The Committee considered correspondence from National Energy Action (NEA) relating to the current situation in respect of fuel poverty and agreed to schedule a briefing from NEA in the New Year.
- 7.5** *Agreed:* The Committee agreed to action the rest of the correspondence as outlined on the correspondence memo.

8. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed to the FWP as drafted, noting that the additional briefings would be scheduled as agreed.

9. AOB

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek an update from the Department on the transfer to councils of powers in relation to Affordable Warmth.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place at 10.00am on Thursday 8 January in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.10pm.

Alex Maskey

Chairperson of the Committee for Social Development

8 January 2015