



# Northern Ireland Assembly

## COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Thursday 11 February 2016  
Room 29, Parliament Buildings**

- Present: Mr Alex Maskey MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Jim Allister MLA  
Mr Roy Beggs MLA  
Ms Paula Bradley MLA  
Mr Gregory Campbell MLA  
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA  
Mr Sammy Douglas MLA  
Ms Dolores Kelly MLA  
Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA
- In Attendance: Dr Kevin Pelan (Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Ashleigh Mitford (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Stewart Kennedy (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Alicia Muldoon (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: Mr Fra McCann MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA

The meeting commenced in open session at 10.02 am

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were noted as above.

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

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting held on 04 February 2016 were agreed.

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting held on 09 February 2016 were agreed.

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

No items were raised

### **4. Matters Arising**

The Committee noted advice from the Examiner of Statutory Rules in relation to the new delegated power created by the amendment to Schedule 2 of the Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill.

The Chairperson reminded the Committee that some members attended the Stewartstown Road Regeneration Project on 4 February 2016. A presentation was provided by the project and by SLIG (Suffolk Lenadon Interface Group)

The Chairperson reminded the Committee that some members of the Committee met informally with the Social Security Advisory Committee yesterday. The meeting focused on Universal Credit and mitigation measures in respect of Welfare Reform.

*Gregory Campbell joined the meeting at 10.05 am*

### **5. Licensing Bill Clause-by-Clause Scrutiny**

The Committee noted an issues paper from the Clerk and a paper from the Member in charge of the Bill which included proposed amendments.

The Committee also noted a draft Committee amendment with respect to licensed racetracks and correspondence from Mrs Cochrane MLA, withdrawing the amendment she previously presented on Clause 7.

*Question put and agreed:*

“The Committee is content with Clause 1 as drafted”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 2 as amended\*”.

*\*as per option 3 set out in Mrs Cochrane's paper of 28 January 2016.*

“The Committee is content with Clause 3 as drafted”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 4 as drafted”.

*Mr Allister and Mr Beggs reserved the right to revisit Clause 4 at a later Stage in the legislative process.*

“The Committee is content with Clause 5 as drafted”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 6 as amended”.

*Mrs Cochrane previously presented an amendment to change the title of the clause to ‘Suitability for functions’*

“The Committee is content with Clause 7 as amended”.

*Mr Allister reserved the right to revisit Clause 7 at a later Stage.*

“The Committee is content with its amendment to insert new Clause 7a as drafted”.

*Mr Allister expressed concern with respect to this new Clause in context of the scope of the Bill.*

“The Committee is content with Clause 8 as amended”.

*This Clause was accepted on the basis that the Department is satisfied that the specified date of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 is practical.*

“The Committee is content with the Long Title as drafted”.

The Committee noted that an additional meeting has been scheduled to consider its Report on the bill on Tuesday 16 February 2016.

*Dolores Kelly joined the meeting at 10.30.*

*The session was recorded by Hansard*

## **6. SL1 Social Security (Housing Costs) (Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 – Departmental Briefing**

The Committee noted the SL1 and a briefing paper from the Department.

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting 10.33 am

- Ms Anne McCleary, Director of Social Security, Policy & Legislation, DSD
- Mr Michael Pollock, Deputy Director of Social Security, Policy & Legislation, DSD

The Departmental officials briefed the Committee and this was followed by questions from members.

A number of members voiced concerns regarding the potential impact of these regulations. The Committee noted that it is scheduled to receive a briefing on the Repossessions Task Force at its meeting on 18 February 2016 when there would be the opportunity to examine actions going forward.

*Agreed:* The Committee was content for the Rule to be made.

The officials left the meeting at 10.47 am

## **7. Annual Report on the Concordat – Departmental Briefing**

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting 10.48 am

- Mr Jack O’Connor, Voluntary and Community Unit, DSD
- Mr Harry Armstrong, Public Sector Engagement Team, DSD
- Ms Lisa McElherron, Head of Public Affairs, Northern Ireland Community and Voluntary Association

The Departmental officials briefed the Committee and this was followed by questions from members.

*During questions:*

*Roy Beggs declared as interest as a committee member of Horizon Sure Start and a leader in the Boys Brigade.*

*Stewart Dickson declared an interest as chair of the All Party Group on Social Enterprise.*

*Adrian McQuillan joined the meeting at 11.20 am*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department, NICVA and OFMdfM on a number of issues.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11.39 am

## **8. SL1 The Charities Act 2008 (Designated Religious Charities) Order (NI) 2016**

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Social Development in relation to an exemption, equivalent to that which would be created by this Order, which is in place in Scotland.

*Roy Beggs declared an interest as a committee member in the Presbyterian Church*

*Stewart Dickson declared an interest as an Elder in the Presbyterian Church*

The Chairperson put the question:

*“That the Committee for Social Development has considered the draft Statutory Rule The Charities Act 2008 (Designated Religious Charities) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report, recommends that it be affirmed by the Assembly.”*

The Committee divided

Ayes

Noes

Not Voting

Roy Beggs

Jim Allister

Alex Maskey

Paula Bradley

Gregory Campbell

Stewart Dickson

Sammy Douglas

Dolores Kelly

Adrian McQuillan

The motion carried.

**9. SL1 The Occupational Pension Schemes (Requirement to Obtain Audited Accounts and a Statement from the Auditor) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*Agreed:* The Committee was content for the rule to be made.

**10. Correspondence**

The Committee noted a correspondence memo.

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

**11. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted its draft Forward Work Programme and a draft itinerary for an upcoming external meeting and visit to a pilot area of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Build Yes initiative. The Committee also noted that the itinerary included a visit to Supporting Communities Incredible Edibles social enterprise project.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed its Forward Work Programme.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft itinerary for its external meeting and visit on 10 March 2016.

**12. AOB**

No items were raised.

**13. Date, time and place of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on Tuesday 16 February 2016 at 9.30am in Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.44 am

**Alex Maskey**

**Chairperson, Committee for Social Development**

**16 February 2016**