



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 14 January 2016
Room 29, Parliament Buildings

- Present: Mr Alex Maskey MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Fra McCann MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Jim Allister MLA
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Ms Paula Bradley MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mr Sammy Douglas MLA
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA
Mrs 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 Gregory Campbell MLA

The meeting commenced in open session at 10.04 a.m.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 07 January 2016 were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

The Committee considered a draft press release for its Building Future Homes event on 21 January 2016 and noted arrangements for event communication via social media.

Agreed: Any member unable to attend the event should contact the Committee Office.

Adrian McQuillan joined the meeting at 10.07 am.

The Committee noted correspondence from the OFMdFM Committee regarding the Department's Bill and Transfer of Functions Order and an update from the Department on the new Department for Communities.

Agreed: Members agreed to consider the papers and bring their views on the bill to the meeting of the 21 January 2016.

The Committee noted an electronic copy of the NIAO Report *The Governance of Land and Property in the NIHE* which was initially circulated in hard copy last week.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a briefing from the Department on its response to the Report.

4. SL1 The Charities Act 2008 (Designated Religious Charities) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 – Departmental Briefing

The following departmental officials joined the meeting at 10.10 am:

- Mr Peter Toner, Head of VCU Charities Policy and Legislation Team, DSD
- Mr Martin Ireland, Head of the Charities Team, DSD

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

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

Roy Beggs joined the meeting at 10.20 (during questions).

Roy Beggs declared an interest as a Committee member in the Presbyterian Church.

Paula Bradley joined the meeting at 10.25 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer its formal consideration of the SL1 and to invite representatives of Church organisations to provide evidence to the Committee.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 10.31 am.

- 5. SL1 The Housing Benefit (Abolition of Family Premium and Date of Claim) (Amendment) Regs (NI) 2016 – Departmental Briefing**
- 6. SL1 The Housing Benefit (Executive Determinations) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

The following departmental officials joined the meeting at 10.31 am:

- Ms Anne McCleary Director Social Security Policy & Legislation Division, DSD
- Mr Michael Pollock Deputy Director Social Security Policy & Legislation Division, DSD
- Ms Rosemary Hughes, Social Security Policy and Legislation Division, DSD

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

Agreed: The Housing Benefit (Abolition of Family Premium and Date of Claim) (Amendment) Regs (NI) 2016 - The Committee was content for the rule to be made.

Phil Flanagan and Dolores Kelly joined the meeting at 10.40 am.

Agreed: The Housing Benefit (Executive Determinations) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 - The Committee was content for the rule to be made.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 10.42 am.

7. Licensing Bill Evidence Session – Ulster Rugby/Irish Football Association/Ulster GAA

The following representatives joined the meeting 10.43 am:

- Mr Shane Logan, Chief Executive, Ulster Rugby
- Mr David Boyd, Stadium Manager, Ulster Rugby
- Mr William Campbell, IFA Head of the CEO Office, Irish Football Association
- Mr Trevor Annon, Chairman of the IFA Stadium Development Company, Irish Football Association
- Mr Danny Murphy - Provincial Secretary of Ulster GAA, Gaelic Athletic Association
- Stephen McGeehan - Project Sponsor Casement Park

The following members declared an interest as members of various sporting clubs:

Roy Beggs; Stewart Dickson; Sammy Douglas; Phil Flanagan

Trevor Annon informed the Committee that, while he was attending in his capacity as Chairman of the IFA Stadium Development Company, he is also Chairperson of Mount Charles Group, catering suppliers to Ulster Rugby.

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

The representatives left the meeting at 11.41 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the PSNI's written submission to the Bill to the Department for comment.

The session was recorded by Hansard.

The Chair suspended the meeting at 11.42 am.

The meeting resumed at 11.47 am with the following members present:

Alex Maskey; Fra McCann; Stewart Dickson; Phil Flanagan; Adrian McQuillan

8. Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill – Committee Consideration

The Committee noted a briefing paper and correspondence in relation to the bill from the Department.

The following departmental officials joined the meeting at 11.47 am:

- Mr Stephen Martin, Housing Policy Delivery
- Mr David Grimley, Private Rented Branch
- Mr Ronan Murphy, Private Rented Branch
- Ms Christine Hayes, Private Rented Branch

The officials briefed the Committee on outstanding issues relating to the bill and answered members' questions.

Dolores Kelly joined the meeting at 11.50 am.

Paula Bradley joined the meeting at 11.52 am.

Sammy Douglas joined the meeting at 12.00 pm .

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it will conduct its clause-by-clause scrutiny of the bill on 21 January 2016.

Stewart Dickson left the meeting at 12.12 pm.

The representatives left the meeting at 12.14 pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that a formal post-implementation review of the effectiveness of the legislation will be necessary.

The session was recorded by Hansard.

9. Correspondence

The Committee noted additional submissions to its call for evidence in relation to the Licensing Bill and noted that these would be uploaded to the Committee's web pages.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request that the PSNI attend its meeting on 21 January 2016 to provide oral evidence.

The Committee noted a correspondence memo and correspondence from Volunteer Now.

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department to provide a breakdown of monies allocated to voluntary organisations in terms of overheads and salaries versus front line project delivery.

10. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted its draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that its meeting on 28 January 2016 should commence at 9.30am in closed session in order to receive a briefing from RaIse (the Assembly's research service) on Budget 2016/17.

Agreed: The scheduled update on Northside Regeneration should initially be provided in writing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its Forward Work Programme as amended.

11. AOB

Agreed: The Committee agreed its press release for its Building Future Homes event on 21 January 2016.

12. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on 21 January 2016 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.18 pm.

Alex Maskey

Chairperson, Committee for Social Development

21 January 2016