



# Northern Ireland Assembly

## COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Thursday 17 September 2015**  
**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 Sammy Douglas MLA  
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA  
Ms Dolores Kelly MLA  
Mr Gordon Lyons MLA  
Mr Fra McCann 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 Stewart Dickson MLA

The meeting commenced in open session at 11:01 a.m.

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were noted as above.

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

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2015 were agreed.

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

The Chairperson reminded members that he was meeting the newly appointed Chief Executive of the NIHE at 2pm.

The Chairperson advised members that he has requested the Acting Permanent Secretary to attend next week's meeting to advise the committee on his priorities for the coming months and the restrictions that may apply to civil servants, given the current circumstances, in assisting the committee to carry out its functions. This request is under consideration.

The Committee noted that an informal meeting has been scheduled with RICS for 9.30 am in Parliament Buildings on Wednesday 7 October 2015.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that members wishing to attend the meeting should contact the Committee Office.

### **4. Matters Arising**

The Committee noted a memo from the Clerk in relation to evidence sessions on the Housing (Amendment) Bill and the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Bill.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule evidence sessions on both Bills in anticipation that, current uncertainties around plenary business aside, the Bills will reach Committee Stage in due course.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed a schedule of evidence sessions and witnesses for 1, 8 and 15 October 2015 on the Housing (Amendment) Bill.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that evidence sessions for the HMO bill will commence from 22 October 2015.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Social Development, the Department for Regional Development and the Department of the Environment in relation to roles and responsibilities regarding illegal obstruction of pavements.

### **5. Departmental Briefing – Consultation on Proposed Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The following departmental officials joined the meeting at 11:11 am

- Mr Peter Toner, Head of VCU Charities Policy and Legislation Team
- Mr Richard Worledge, VCU Charities Team

*Mr Sammy Douglas MLA joined the meeting at 11:30am*

*Mr Roy Beggs MLA declared an interest as Treasurer of Carrickfergus Community Drugs and Alcohol Advisory Group and as a Sure Start Committee member.*

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

The officials left the meeting at 11:31 am

## **6. Social Security Agency Briefing – Justice No.2 Bill**

The following officials from the Social Security Agency joined the meeting at 11:31 am

- Mr John McKervill, Director of Pensions, Disability & Corporate Services, SSA
- Mr Vimal Kher, Deputy Principle – Error Reduction Division Branch, SSA
- Ms Cathy Duff, Deputy Principle – Debt Management, SSA

*Mr Phil Flanagan joined the meeting at 11:40am.*

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

*Mr Gregory Campbell MLA left the meeting at 11:59am*

The officials left the meeting at 12:04 am

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed for the Clerk to draft a response to the Committee for Justice for consideration at next week's meeting.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

## **7. Correspondence**

The Committee noted a correspondence memo.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to action all correspondence as outlined on the correspondence memo and agreed a response to a member of the public in relation to committee expenditure.

Mr Jim Allister MLA expressed his dissent in relation to the Committee's response to a member of the public regarding committee expenditure.

## **8. Forward Work Programme**

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

## **9. AOB**

No items were raised.

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

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on 24 September 2015 at 10:00am.

#### **11. Consideration of the draft End of Session Report**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider the draft End of Session Report in open session.

The Committee considered the draft report page by page.

The Committee was content with pages 1-11 of the report as drafted.

The Chairperson put the following question:

*“That the Committee for Social Development agreed its End of Session Report.”*

*Mr Jim Allister MLA left the meeting at 12:15pm*

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed to the public at 12:15 pm

The meeting moved to closed session at 12:17 pm

#### **12. Bill session with drafting expert Daniel Greenberg**

Daniel Greenberg, legislative drafting expert, joined the meeting at 12:17pm to brief the Committee on legislative scrutiny in the context of the Housing (Amendment) Bill and the Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill.

*Mr Fra McCann left the meeting at 12.54pm*

*Mr Sammy Douglas MLA left the meeting at 12:55pm*

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 13:00 p.m.

**Alex Maskey**

**Chairperson, Committee for Social Development**

**24 September 2015**