



# Northern Ireland Assembly

## COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Thursday 18 February 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 Gregory Campbell 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 Jim Nulty (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Alicia Muldoon (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: None

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 16 February 2016 were agreed.

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

No items were raised

### **4. Matters Arising**

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department in relation to an additional amendment to the HMO Bill.

The Committee noted that the Consideration Stage of the Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill is scheduled for 23 February 2016.

### **5. Developer Contributions for Affordable Housing – Departmental Briefing**

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting 10.05 am

- Mr Stephen Martin, Deputy Director of Housing Policy Delivery, DSD
- Mr John McCord, Head of Housing Affordability Branch, DSD
- Ms Julie Lavery, Deputy Principal of Affordable Housing Team, DSD

The Committee noted a briefing paper from the Department.

Members noted with concern that there has been another reported death of a homeless person here.

*Agreed:* Members agreed to seek more information on the circumstances surrounding this person's death.

*Jim Allister joined the meeting at 10.06 am*

*Adrian McQuillan joined the meeting at 10.07 am*

*Dolores Kelly joined the meeting at 10.08 am*

*Phil Flanagan joined the meeting at 10.25 am*

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

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to seek further information from the Department and to return to the issue.

Ms Lavery left the meeting at 10.49 am. Mr Martin and Mr McCord remained at the table.

## **6. Housing Repossession Taskforce – Departmental Briefing**

The following Departmental official joined Mr Martin and Mr McCord at the table at 10.49 am

- Mr Ronan McClean, Policy and Delivery Officer of Affordable Housing, DSD

The Committee noted a briefing paper from the Department.

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

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to seek further information from the Department.

*Paula Bradley left the meeting at 11.37*

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11.40 am

## **7. SL1 The Licensing (Register of Licences) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

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

## **8. SL1 The Licensing of Pavement Cafes (Register of Licences) Regulations 2016**

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

## **9. SL1 The Licensing of Pavement Cafes (Form Of Licence) Regulations 2016**

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

## **10. SL1 The Occupational Pension Schemes (Scheme Administration) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

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

## **11. SL1 The Social Security (Claims and Payments) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

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

## **12. SL1 The Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order (Northern Ireland) 2016**

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

## **13. SL1 The Social Security Benefits (Adjustment of Rates and Thresholds) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

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

## **14. SL1 The Social Security Benefits Up-rating Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

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

**15. SR 32 The Pension Protection Fund and Occupational Pension Schemes (Levy Ceiling and Compensation Cap) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016**

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 32/2016 The Pension Protection Fund and Occupational Pensions Schemes (Levy Ceiling and Compensation Cap) Order (NI) 2016 and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report, has no objections to the Rule.”*

**16. SR 44 The Social Security (Housing Costs Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

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 44/2016 The Social Security (Housing Costs) (Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report, has no objections to the Rule.”*

**17. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the correspondence memo.

The Committee welcomed correspondence from the Department advising of the Minister’s decision to freeze NIHE rents for 2016/17 rents.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Open Government Network and Building Change Trust.

*Agreed:* The Committee is content to include a recommendation in the End-of-Mandate Report that the Committee for Communities engages with these groups to help develop a strategic engagement plan for the next mandate.

The Committee noted tabled invitations to a NEA event in the Long Gallery and the Equality Commission’s event to launch a new research report on 'Housing and Communities Inequalities in Northern Ireland'.

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

**18. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted its draft Forward Work Programme.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content to receive the briefing scheduled for 3 March 2016 on ‘Social Housing Reform Programme: Publication of Asset Commission materials’ in writing.

The Committee noted details of its upcoming visits to Fold on 25 February 2016.

*Agreed:* Members will make their own travel arrangements and indicate their availability to attend to Committee Staff.

The Chairperson reminded the Committee that it has agreed to visit a pilot area of the NIHE's 'Build Yes' initiative and to hold an external meeting in Coleraine on 10 March 2016. The itinerary for the day also includes a visit to Supporting Communities' Incredible Edibles social enterprise project in Cloughmills.

Details of both visits will be circulated.

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

### **19. AOB**

No items were raised.

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

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on 25 February 2016 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.48 am.

**Alex Maskey**

**Chairperson, Committee for Social Development**

**25 February 2016**