



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 21 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 Gregory Campbell 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 Stewart Dickson MLA
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA

The meeting commenced in open session at 10:03 a.m.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2016 were agreed.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised members that the CIH have invited him to attend the Annual Housing Awards in Belfast City Hall on 4 March.

4. Matters Arising

Agreed: The Committee agreed its response to OFMdFM Committee in relation to its priorities for the European Commission Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its response to the OFMdFM Committee regarding the Department's Bill and Transfer of Functions Order.

Gregory Campbell joined the meeting at 10.06 am.

5. Licensing Bill Evidence Session - PSNI

The following witnesses joined the meeting at 10.06 am:

Roy Beggs declared an interest as a member of Larne Rugby Club.

- Mr Stephen Cargin, Chief Superintendent, PSNI
- Mr John Connor, Deputy Principal, PSNI
- Mr John McGuinness, Constable, PSNI
- Alison Douglas, Legal Advisor, PSNI

Adrian McQuillan joined the meeting at 10.09 am.

Paula Bradley joined the meeting at 10.11 am.

The Committee noted the organisation's written submission.

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed to send a copy of the Department's response to the PSNI's written submission to Judith Cochrane MLA.

The officials left the meeting at 11.15 am.

The session was recorded by Hansard.

6. Licensing Bill Evidence Session – Ravenhill Steering Group

The following representatives joined the meeting at 11.15 am:

- Ms Clare Delargy, Representative, Ravenhill Steering Group
- Ms Patricia Baxter, Representative, Ravenhill Steering Group

The Committee noted the group's written submission.

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

The representatives left the meeting at 11.55 am.

The session was recorded by Hansard.

Roy Beggs left the meeting at 11.55 am.

7. Licensing Bill Evidence Session – Hospitality Ulster

The following representatives joined the meeting 11.55 am:

- Mr Colin Neill, Chief Executive, Hospitality Ulster
- Ms Joel Neill, Operations Director, Hospitality Ulster

The Committee noted the organisation's written submission.

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

Gregory Campbell left the meeting at 12.14 am.

The representatives left the meeting at 12.19 pm.

The session was recorded by Hansard.

8. Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill Clause-by-Clause Consideration– Departmental Briefing

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting 12.19pm:

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

The Committee noted tabled amendments, a report from the Examiner of Statutory Rules, and a copy of a letter from Minister Morrow to Minister Ford.

The officials briefed the Committee regarding a query in relation to clause 90 (1) of the bill. The Committee noted that there had been an error in the delegated powers memorandum that will be corrected.

The Committee undertook its Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

Agreed:

“The Committee is content with Clause 1..2 as drafted”.

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

“The Committee is content with Clause 4..5 as drafted”.

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

“The Committee is content with Clause 7..8 as drafted”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 9..10 as amended”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 11..17 as drafted”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 18 as amended”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 19 as drafted”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 20..21 as amended”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 22..25 as drafted”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 26 as amended”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 27 as drafted”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 28..29 as amended”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 30..52 as drafted”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 53 as amended”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 54..61 as drafted”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 62 as amended”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 63 as drafted”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 64 as amended”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 65..66 as drafted”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 67 as amended”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 68..72 as drafted”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 73..75 as amended”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 76..82 as drafted”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 83 as amended”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 84..87 as drafted”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 88 as amended”.

“The Committee is content with Clause 89..91 as drafted”.

“The Committee is content with Schedule 1 as amended”.

“The Committee is content with Schedule 2 as amended”.

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

“The Committee is content with Schedule 4..5 as amended”.

“The Committee is content with Schedule 6.8 as drafted”.

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Clerk will draft a report for the Committee’s consideration at its meeting on 28 January 2016.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 12.44am.

The session was recorded by Hansard.

9. SL1 Social Security (Housing Costs) (Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee noted the SL1 and related correspondence from Housing Rights.

Agreed: The Committee agreed defer its consideration and to request a briefing from the Department on this SL1.

10. SR 6 The Housing Benefit (Executive Determinations) (Amendment) 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 6/2016 The Housing Benefit (Executive Determinations) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report, has no objections to the Rule.”

11. Correspondence

The Committee noted a correspondence memo.

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

12. Forward Work Programme

The Committee agreed details of its visit to the NIHE’s Stewartstown Road regeneration project on 4 February 2016.

The Committee noted its draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that its meeting on 28 January 2016 will commence at 9.30am in closed session. During the closed session the Committee will receive a briefing from RaISE (the Assembly’s Research Service) on budget setting and will also receive procedural advice in relation to the Licensing Bill.

The Committee noted that the Forward Work Programme had been subject to rescheduling.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its Forward Work Programme.

13. AOB

No items were raised.

14. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on 28 January 2016 at 9.30am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.44 pm.

Alex Maskey

Chairperson, Committee for Social Development

28 January 2016