



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 22 October 2015
Room 29, Parliament Buildings

Present: Mr Alex Maskey MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Fra McCann MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Gregory Campbell MLA
Mr Sammy Douglas MLA
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA
Ms Dolores Kelly MLA
Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA

In Attendance: Dr Kevin Pelan (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stewart Kennedy (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Alicia Muldoon (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Jim Allister MLA
Ms Paula Bradley MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA

The meeting commenced in open session at 9:29 am.

Mrs Dolores Kelly declared an interest in relation to the Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2015 were agreed.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed the Committee that he and the Deputy Chairperson attended a meeting with the UN Committee on Persons with Disabilities to discuss potential impact of welfare reform on people with disabilities.

4. Departmental Briefing on status of Ministerial Decisions

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department advising that, as Minister Storey was reappointed on Tuesday 20 October and has resumed normal duties, the Temporary Permanent Secretary and acting Deputy Secretary would not be attending the Committee meeting to brief the Committee on Ministerial decisions as scheduled.

5. Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Bill Evidence Session – Local Government

The following officials joined the meeting at 9.34 am.

- Ms Karen Smyth, Head of Policy, Northern Ireland Local Government Association
- Mr Stephen Leonard, Environmental Protection Manager, Belfast City Council
- Mr Steven Corr, Councillor, Belfast City Council

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

Mr Adrian McQuillan joined the meeting at 9.39am.

Mr Fra McCann joined the meeting at 9.44am.

Mr Roy Beggs left the meeting at 10.15am.

Mr Phil Flanagan joined the meeting at 10.23am.

The officials left the meeting at 10.41am.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

6. SL1 The Charities Act 2008 (Examination of Accounts) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

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

7. SL1 The Charities Act 2008 (Designated Religious Charities) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the SL1 and to schedule a briefing from the Department.

8. Correspondence

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department which informed the Committee of the Minister's decision to terminate the Development Agreement between the Department and the Developers of the Royal Exchange scheme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Department on this issue.

The Committee noted a letter from the Chairperson of the Assembly and Executive Review Committee in relation to the recommendations contained in its Phase 3 Inquiry Report concerning the Ministerial Code. The Committee also noted that a response from the OFMdFM Committee in relation to its views on how best to take forward the recommendations contained in this Committee's phase 3 Inquiry Report, remains outstanding.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Assembly and Executive Review Committee on its' call for evidence on the Assembly Opposition Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that members should send any views on these issues to the clerk who will bring them to committee for discussion at the meeting of 5 November.

The Committee noted correspondence from the OFMdFM Committee regarding the 'Towards a Wellbeing Framework' Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that members should send any views on these issues to the clerk who will bring them to committee for discussion at the meeting of 5 November.

The Committee noted a correspondence memo.

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

9. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed its Forward Work Programme.

10. AOB

Mrs Dolores Kelly raised an issue in relation to the handling of an investigation by the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland into the Disabled Police Officers Association NI.

Mrs Dolores Kelly raised an issue in relation to the manufacturing of bead insulation.

Agreed: Mrs Kelly agreed to provide the Chairperson with information on both these issues for consideration at a later date.

11. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on 05 November 2015 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 10:47am.

Alex Maskey

Chairperson, Committee for Social Development

05 November 2015