



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Thursday 25 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 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: Stewart Dickson

The meeting commenced in open session at 10.02 a.m.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

Gregory Campbell and Fra McCann joined the meeting at 10.03 am.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2016 were agreed.

3. Chairperson's Business

No items were raised

4. Matters Arising

The Committee noted that a briefing has been scheduled for its meeting of 3 March 2016 in relation to recent reports of the deaths of three homeless people in Belfast in recent months. The briefing will be provided by homeless organisations and the NIHE and will be provided to inform members of the circumstances surrounding the deaths.

Roy Beggs joined the meeting at 10.07 am.

5. 2016/17 Budget – Departmental Briefing

The Committee noted a briefing paper from the Department.

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10.09 am

- Mr Ian Snowden, Acting Deputy Secretary of Resources and Social Policy Group (RSPG), DSD
- Ms Deborah Brown, Finance Director, DSD
- Ms Joyce Bill, Director of Financial and Commercial Services, SSA

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

Adrian McQuillan left the meeting at 10.09

Dolores Kelly joined the meeting at 10.15 am.

Fra McCann left the meeting at 10.22

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek information on the status of the Northern Ireland Advice Services Consortium.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 10.35 am

The session was recorded by Hansard.

6. Work of Housing Associations - Housing Associations/ NIFHA Joint Briefing

The following representatives joined the meeting at 10.36 am

- Mr Cameron Watt, Chief Executive, NIFHA
- Dr Jennifer Donald, Deputy Chief Executive, NIFHA
- Ms Geraldine Gilpin, Chief Executive, Abbeyfield and Wesley Housing Association
- Mr Anthony Kerr, Newington Housing Association

The Committee watched a short video on the work of housing associations.

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

Fra McCann joined the meeting at 10.44 am

Adrian McQuillan joined the meeting at 10.54 am.

Ms Gilpin and Mr Kerr left the meeting at 11.54 am. Mr Watt and Dr Donald remained at the table.

7. Rent Policy – NIFHA/Clanmill Housing Association Briefing

The following representative joined Mr Watt and Dr Donald at 11.54 am

- Mr Jonathan Boggs, Group Finance Director, Clanmill Housing Association

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

Dolores Kelly left the meeting at 11.45 am.

Gregory Campbell left the meeting at 11.50 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a breakdown from NIFHA on Chief Executives salaries in the sector. The Committee also agreed to seek information on issues related to the inclusion of social clauses in contracts relating to housing developments; and the Global Accounts of Housing Providers in relation to efficiency within the sector.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for both briefings and reminded those present that some members would be visiting the Fold offices after the meeting.

The representatives left the meeting at 12.24 pm

8. SL1 The Automatic Enrolment (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

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

9. SL1 Proposals for The Occupational Pension Schemes (Charges and Governance) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

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

10. SL1 The Housing Benefit and State Pension Credit (Temporary Absence) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the SL1 and request that officials provide further information.

11. Correspondence

The Committee noted a correspondence memo.

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

The Committee noted correspondence from the SSA on the Welfare Supplementary Payments Regulations and that the SSA is scheduled to brief the Committee on 3 March 2016.

12. Forward Work Programme

Some members indicated availability to attend the Committee's external meeting at the NIHE's Causeway offices on 10 March 2016.

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 03 March 2016 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.27 p.m.

Alex Maskey

Chairperson, Committee for Social Development

03 March 2016