



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 19 March 2015
Room 29, Parliament Buildings

- Present: Mr Alex Maskey MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Mickey Brady MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Jim Allister MLA
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Ms Paula Bradley MLA
Mr Gregory Campbell MLA
Mr Maurice Devenney MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA
Mr Sammy Wilson MLA
- In Attendance: Dr Kevin Pelan (Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Ashleigh Mitford (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stewart Kennedy (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Richard Reid (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: Mr Stewart Dickson MLA

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 10:04am.

1. Apologies

Apologies were as noted above.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2015 were agreed as amended.

3. Chairperson's Business

- 3.1** The Chairperson informed the Committee that the Chief Executive of the Social Security Agency had written to ask that the briefings on the Social Size Criteria Scheme and the Supplementary Payments Scheme be postponed.
- 3.2** *Agreed:* The Committee agreed to sponsor a NI Human Rights Commission event on March 27 2015.

4. Matters Arising

The Committee noted that the motions for the Assembly to confirm the Pneumoconiosis and the Mesothelioma Regulations are scheduled for 23 March 2015. The Committee also noted the Consideration Stage of the Pensions Bill is scheduled for debate on 24 March 2015.

5. Regeneration Bill – Briefing by JUNO

The following representatives from Juno Planning and Environmental Ltd joined the meeting at 10:08am:

- Helen Harrison – Director;
- Andrew Heasley – Senior Planner; and
- Orlaith Kirk – Senior Planner.

Mr Sammy Wilson MLA joined the meeting at 10:16am.

The representatives briefed the Committee on a number of key issues relating to several clauses of the Regeneration Bill. The key issues addressed were local development plans and community development plans. This was followed by a question and answer session.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

The representatives left the meeting at 10:50am.

6. Private Rented Sector: Regulation Review – Departmental Briefing

The following officials joined the meeting at 10.52am:

- Stephen Martin - Deputy Director, Housing Policy Delivery;
- Avril Hiles Project Leader, Private Rented Sector review; and
- Joanne Cartland - Landlord Registration Registrar

The officials briefed the Committee on the Regulation Review of the Private Rented Sector.

Members of the Committee discussed with the officials some of the key objectives and the scope of the review.

The Committee noted the broad scope of the proposed review and questioned officials on specific issues such as anti-social behaviour, housing standards, rent levels, options for investment in the private rented sector, survey findings on tenant satisfaction with landlords, shared space etc.

The Committee noted the timeframe for bringing forward proposals.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with the results of the Housing Executive's follow-up study to the House Condition Survey and information on the number of Certificates of Disrepair issued by Councils.

The officials left the meeting at 11:45am.

7. SL1 Registered Rents (Increase) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

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

8. SL1 The Employment and Support Allowance (Repeat Assessments and Pending Appeal Awards) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2015

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer consideration and seek further information from the Department.

9. SR 149 The Maternity Allowance (Curtailement) Regulations (NI) 2015

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 149 The Maternity Allowance (Curtailement) Regulations (NI) 2015 and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report, has no objections to the Rule".

10. SR 150 The Statutory Maternity Pay (Curtailement) Regulations (NI) 2015

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 150 The Statutory Maternity Pay (Curtailement) Regulations (NI) 2015 and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report, has no objections to the Rule".

11. SR 153 The Social Security (Invalid Care Allowance) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

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 153 The Social Security (Invalid Care Allowance) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report, has no objections to the Rule".

12. SR 154 The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Disclosure of Information) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

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 154 The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Disclosure of Information) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report, has no objections to the Rule”.

13. SR 155 The Occupational Pension Schemes (Consequential and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (NI) 2015

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 155 The Occupational Pension Schemes (Consequential and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (NI) 2015 and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report, has no objections to the Rule”.

14. Correspondence

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

15. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme as drafted.

The meeting moved into closed session at 11:50am.

16. Committee Inquiry – Phase 3 Report

The Committee considered a third draft report on Phase 3 of its Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed in principle to the inclusion of a minority report as an appendix to the committee report.

Mr Sammy Wilson MLA left the meeting at 12:31pm.

Ms Paula Bradley MLA left the meeting at 12.34pm.

Mr Gregory Campbell MLA and Mr Maurice Devenney MLA left the meeting at 12:54pm.

Mr Roy Beggs MLA left the meeting at 13:36pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed a number of amendments to several paragraphs of the draft report and agreed to consider a revised draft of the report at its meeting on 26 March 2015.

17. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on 26 March 2015 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 13:50pm

Alex Maskey

Chairperson, Committee for Social Development

26 March 2015