



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 26 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
Mr Gregory Campbell 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 Jonathan McMillen (Legal Services)
Mr Richard Reid (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Ms Paula Bradley MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 10:08am.

1. Apologies

Apologies were as noted above.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Ms Dolores Kelly MLA to wish her husband a speedy recovery.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2015 were agreed.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson reminded members that the Committee agreed to sponsor a seminar on behalf of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission on the potential impact of welfare reform with a Senior Research Economist from the Institute of Fiscal Studies on 27 March and asked any member wishing to attend to contact the Clerk. The Chairperson also advised that if there was sufficient interest then a separate session would be arranged for members' researchers.

4. Matters Arising

- 4.1** The Chairperson informed members that the Committee had received a minority report for the Phase 3 Inquiry report and that it would be considered in the closed session.
- 4.2** The Committee noted a response from NILGA regarding a number of issues which members raised during its oral evidence session on the Regeneration Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider NILGA's response when it reviews its evidence on the Bill.

5. Regeneration Bill – Evidence by NICVA

The following representatives from NICVA joined the meeting at 10:12am:

- Seamus McAleavey – Chief Executive
- Jenna Maghie – Policy Development Officer

The representatives briefed the Committee on a number of key issues relating to the Regeneration Bill. The key issues addressed included the lack of definition in the Bill regarding “social need”, “deprivation”, and “regeneration” and the transfer of budget to councils for Neighbourhood Renewal. This was followed by a question and answer session.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

The representatives left the meeting at 10:51am.

6. Regeneration Bill – Evidence by The Fermanagh Trust

The following officials joined the meeting at 10.52am:

- Lauri McCusker - The Fermanagh Trust
- Karen Sweeney - Women's Support Network
- Lynn Moffett - Ballymoney Community Resource
- Cathy Polley – Ards Community Network

The representatives briefed the Committee on a number of key issues relating to the Regeneration Bill. The key issues addressed included local development plans, community development plans and

concerns regarding the uncertainty of the Community Investment Fund. This was followed by a question and answer session.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

The representatives left the meeting at 12:08pm.

7. SL1 The Employment and Support Allowance (Repeat Assessments and Pending Appeal Awards) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Committee considered correspondence from the Department which addressed a number of queries raised by members at the meeting on 19 March 2015.

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

8. SL1 The Social Security (Maternity Allowance) (Earnings) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

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

9. SR 163 The Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendments No. 2) 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 163 The Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendments No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report, has no objections to the Rule”.

10. SR 164 The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Transfer Values) (Amendment and Revocation) 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 164 The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Transfer Values) (Amendment and Revocation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report, has no objections to the Rule”.

11. SR 165 The Pension Schemes Act 2015 (Transitional Provisions and Appropriate Independent Advice) 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 165 The Pension Schemes Act 2015 (Transitional Provisions and Appropriate Independent Advice) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report, has no objections to the Rule”.

12. Correspondence

- 12.1** The Committee noted correspondence from the Department on issues raised by Ballynafeigh Community Development Association regarding the lack of response to applications for the Community Investment Fund.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the Department’s response to the Ballynafeigh Community Development Association.

- 12.2** The Committee noted correspondence from the Department in response to concerns relating to the 2015/16 Neighbourhood Renewal budget.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the Department’s response to those organisations which expressed concerns regarding the Neighbourhood Renewal budget.

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

13. Forward Work Programme

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

The meeting moved into closed session at 12:13pm.

14. Committee Inquiry – Phase 3 Report

Mr Jonathan McMillen joined the meeting at 12:13pm.

The Committee took legal advice on some of the text within its draft report.

Mr Jonathan McMillen left the meeting at 12:24pm

The Committee noted a minority report.

Mr Sammy Wilson MLA left the meeting at 12:29pm

Mr Gregory Campbell left the meeting at 12:32pm

The Committee considered a revised draft report and agreed some amendments.

Agreed: In accordance with agreed procedural fairness principles, the Committee agreed for the amended draft report to be issued to two individuals for comment. The Committee also agreed that any comments should be received by 5pm on Monday 13 April 2015.

15. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on 16 April 2015 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:55pm

Alex Maskey

Chairperson, Committee for Social Development

16 April 2015