



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Social Development

Legacy Report for Assembly Mandate 2011-16

Agreed by the Committee for Social Development on 10 March 2016

Powers and Membership

The Committee for Social Development is a Statutory Departmental Committee established in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Belfast Agreement, section 29 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and under Standing Order 48.

The Committee has power to:

- consider and advise on Departmental budgets and annual plans in the context of the overall budget allocation;
- consider relevant secondary legislation and take the Committee Stage of primary legislation;
- call for persons and papers;
- initiate inquiries and make reports; and
- consider and advise on any matters brought to the Committee by the Minister for Social Development.

The Committee has 11 members including a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and a quorum of 5. The membership of the Committee at the end of the Assembly Mandate 11-16 is as follows:

Mr Alex Maskey (Chairperson)
Mr Fra McCann (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Jim Allister
Mr Roy Beggs
Ms Paula Bradley
Mr Gregory Campbell
Mr Stewart Dickson
Mr Sammy Douglas
Mr Phil Flanagan
Mrs Dolores Kelly
Mr Adrian McQuillan

Table of Contents

Committee remit, current membership and powers	2
Committee achievements	5
The Committee's approach	13
Issues and matters that an incoming Committee may wish to consider	16
Table of Appendices	
Appendix 1 - Changes to the Committee Membership	23
Appendix 2 - Overview of activity during Assembly Mandate 2011-16	24
Appendix 3 - Summary of the 2015-16 Session.	28
Appendix 4 - Items remaining on the Forward Work Programme	31
Appendix 5 - Exploration of Housing Structures Seminar outline	32

Committee Achievements

1. The Committee for Social Development undertook a demanding schedule of work during the 2011-16 Assembly Mandate.
2. It conducted the Committee Stage of 10 Bills, agreed that it was content for 1 Bill to proceed by Accelerated Passage, considered 3 Legislative Consent Motions and scrutinised over 240 pieces of Subordinate Legislation.
3. In addition to its legislative workload, the Committee undertook an Inquiry which was dealt with in 3 phases due to the scale and complexity of the issues being considered. From a policy scrutiny perspective, the Committee focused on housing, homelessness and fuel poverty and of course worked closely with the Department for Social Development on budgetary matters, within a demanding financial climate.
4. The Committee has also held a number of stakeholder events on housing and one key event on fuel poverty.

Primary Legislation - Key highlights and successes

5. The Committee's workload encompassed two Pensions Bills (in 2012 and 2015); The Charities Bill; the Business Improvement Districts Bill; the Welfare Reform Bill; the Licensing of Pavement Cafes Bill; the Regeneration Bill; the Housing (Amendment) Bill; the Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill; and the Licensing Bill. The Committee also [agreed](#) on 4 June 2015 that it was content for the Pension Schemes Bill to proceed by Accelerated Passage, following a presentation from the Minister for Social Development.
6. Reports on the Committee Stage of 10 Bills considered during 2011-16 can be found [here](#).

Welfare Reform Bill

7. Due to its size and complexity, the Committee's consideration of the Welfare Reform Bill constituted a substantial element of its work programme in 2012-13. The Committee lodged opposition to ten clauses of the Bill. Its report on the Bill was published on 14 February 2013 and is available on-line [here](#).

8. The Committee subsequently received a [briefing](#) on 9 February 2015 from the Department on proposed changes to the Bill following the Stormont House Agreement. However the Welfare Reform Bill failed to pass at Final Stage in the Assembly on 26 May 2015.
9. Following the [Fresh Start Agreement](#), the Committee received a [briefing](#) on 4 February 2016 from the Working Group on Welfare Reform Mitigations, led by Prof Eileen Evason and met informally with the Social Security Advisory Committee on related matters.
10. The Committee subsequently considered the Welfare Supplementary Payments Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and recommended to the Assembly that the regulations be affirmed. The [briefing](#) from the SSA was recorded by Hansard.

Licensing of Pavement Cafes Bill

11. The Committee broadly welcomed the Bill, seeing the benefit of regulating an already common practice in towns and cities. The Assembly agreed six departmental amendments, some of which were brought about as a result of recommendations made by the Committee.
12. The Committee's report on the Licensing of Pavement Cafes Bill published in December 2013 is available online [here](#).
13. The Committee subsequently heard from stakeholders in June 2015 around their concerns regarding draft guidelines being produced by the Department on the Licensing of Pavement Cafes. The Committee was content with the Department's positive response in amending the guidelines based on stakeholder concerns.

Regeneration Bill

14. Central to the Committee's consideration of the Regeneration Bill were concerns raised by some members that regeneration should be centered on economic regeneration rather than social need and the Committee agreed two amendments to that effect. The Committee also agreed an amendment to prevent a council from assisting a project that sought to promote or refer to an individual with a serious criminal conviction.

15. The Committee also made a number of recommendations in its [Report](#) on the Committee Stage of the Bill which was published in May 2015.
16. The Minister for Social Development made a [written statement](#) to the Assembly on 26 November 2015 advising that he had decided not to proceed with the Bill as drafted. Included in the Minister's statement were references to the policy issues raised during the Committee Stage of the Bill.

Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill

17. The Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill aims to introduce better regulation of houses in multiple occupation by introducing a licensing regime. The Committee was largely satisfied with the content of the bill though it raised specific issues on some clauses.
18. The Committee noted the positive response from the Department on these matters. The Report of the Committee Stage of the Bill was published in February 2016 and can be viewed [here](#). The Bill passed Final Stage in the Assembly on 15 March 2016.

Inquiry

19. The Committee held an Inquiry into allegations, arising from a BBC NI Spotlight programme aired on 3 July 2013, of impropriety or irregularity relating to NIHE managed contracts and consideration of any resulting actions.
20. The Inquiry was split into three distinct phases and the reports can be accessed [here](#).
21. Phase 1 of the Inquiry focused on allegations that the Committee was misled by the Minister for Social Development over his decision to seek a review of the specification for the supply and fitting of double-glazing.
22. The key conclusion of this [report](#) which was published in July 2014, was that the then Minister for Social Development, Mr McCausland, deliberately misled the Committee for Social Development. A petition of concern was lodged in relation to the motion for Debate on the Committee's Report on

- Phase 1 and the motion that the Assembly note the Report subsequently fell on 8 September.
23. Phase 2 of the Inquiry examined the adequacy of actions proposed by the Minister, the Department for Social Development and the NIHE to address previous, well documented failings in relation to procurement and contract management.
 24. Overall the Committee [reported](#) that good progress had been made in relation to the range of issues relating to procurement, governance and contractual management. However, the Committee also agreed that there was significant work still to be done if public confidence in these three key areas is to be achieved and sustained.
 25. During phase 3, the Committee considered decision making relating to the award, modification and cancellation of NIHE maintenance contracts to establish any impropriety or irregularity and, in particular, whether the actions of Ministers were appropriate.
 26. The Committee drew a number of conclusions throughout its report on phase 3 but on the *key* issue the Committee concluded, based on the evidence it received, that Minister McCausland had acted inappropriately.
 27. The Committee's [report](#) on phase 3, which was noted by the Assembly on 12 May 2015, contains a number of urgent procedural review recommendations. A minority report, reflecting the views of those members of the Committee who disagreed with the Committee's findings, was included in the appendices of the main report
 28. During the Inquiry, the Committee considered and agreed an approach that reflected the principles of procedural fairness. It took evidence from witnesses under Oath or Affirmation and used its powers under Section 44 of the Northern Ireland Act to compel the release of documents related to the Inquiry.
 29. The Committee believes there are issues to be addressed and lessons to be learned from this inquiry by the individuals concerned, the Department for Social Development, the wider civil service, and the political institutions in order to underpin public confidence in the accountability for those in ministerial office.

Budget and Policy Scrutiny

Fuel Poverty

30. Following a stakeholder event organised by the Committee in November 2011 it produced a report on Fuel Poverty. The [report](#) which was endorsed by the Assembly in May 2012 made a number of recommendations including:
- the Department for Social Development establish an Overall Action to address fuel poverty and this should be Reducing and Preventing Fuel Poverty - a coordinated and collaborative approach; and
 - Thematic Action Groups (TAGs) are established and are based on themes identified as a result of the discussions on the night of the fuel poverty event.



Committee Chairpersons attending the Committee for Social Development's Fuel Poverty Event

31. A further Fuel Poverty event was held in May 2012 in conjunction with the Fuel Poverty Coalition.
32. The Affordable Warmth Scheme was launched in 2014. This scheme is targeted at those most vulnerable to the effects of fuel poverty and the Committee has closely monitored the implementation of this new scheme.

Housing and Homelessness

33. The Committee prioritised Housing within its Work Programme throughout the Mandate. Details and links regarding stakeholder events and visits on housing and homelessness can be found under the section on the [Committee's approach](#). The Committee's reports on two Housing Bills - the [Housing \(Amendment\) Bill](#) and the [Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill](#) can be accessed on line.

34. Throughout the Mandate, the Committee has received briefings from the Department and providers on the Supporting People Programme. The Committee has continually expressed its support for the programme which provides assistance to people to help them stay in their own homes. The Committee has expressed its support for the Department in calling for the funding for this important programme to be ring-fenced. The Committee was very aware as the Mandate drew to a close that although funding had not been cut and every effort was being made to protect it, costs for delivering the services had increased and that this could inevitably impact on the delivery of services. The Committee also expressed concern that there was a clear need for better joined up working between Health and Housing in delivering the programme.



Committee members visit the Cedar Foundation, Supported Housing, June 2011.

35. The Committee worked closely with the Department on the Social Housing Reform Programme and the Review of the Role and Regulation of the Private Rented Sector. Work by the Department on both of these initiatives is likely to continue in the new Mandate.
36. Housing supply and the work of housing providers has also been extensively considered by the Committee. The Committee held an [event](#) on Housing Supply in January 2016 and has received several updates from the Department on Developer Contribution Schemes during the Mandate. It has also engaged closely with Housing Associations on their work. The Committee took a keen interest in the management of NIHE, particularly during [Phase 2 of its major inquiry](#).

37. In relation to the specific issue of homelessness, in 2011-12, the Committee considered the performance of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the implementation of key policies including the Homelessness Strategy.
38. Most recently, some members met with a group of Young Advisers from the Speak-up Project who have experienced homelessness. The Committee also received a briefing from key stakeholders in February 2016 following the reporting of the deaths of 4 homeless people in Belfast.



Benefits and Poverty

39. The Committee's [consideration of Welfare Reform](#) was an intensive piece of work and there is still much work to be done in the new Mandate in implementing and monitoring the out-workings of the [Fresh Start Agreement](#).
40. Scrutiny of secondary legislation in the area of benefits formed a substantial part of the Committee for Social Development's workload during the Mandate.

Urban Regeneration and Community Development

41. As well its [consideration of the Regeneration Bill](#), the Committee took briefings on the Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal, major regeneration projects such as the Northside Regeneration Project as well as town centre regeneration projects. The Committee's consideration of the Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill also raised issues on planning which are discussed in the Committee's [Report](#) on the Bill.



Committee members visit the Stewartstown Road Regeneration Project - January 2016

Budgetary Scrutiny

42. The Committee has assisted the Department in scrutinising the Department's plans and the outcome of the budget and monitoring round processes throughout a mandate which saw enormous pressures on Departmental budgets. Budgetary scrutiny for each session is available on line in Committee [End of Session Reports](#) for 2011-12; 2012-13; 2013-14; and 2014-15. The End of Session report for 2015-16 is in [appendix 3](#).

The Committee's Approach

43. The Committee has seen enormous benefit in engaging with stakeholders formally and informally to assist it in its scrutiny role.

External Committee Meetings and Visits

44. The Committee held a number of external meetings made a number of visits during the Assembly Mandate to hear from stakeholders on issues across its remit. Details of visits are available in the [Committee's End of Session Reports](#). Details of visits in the 2015-16 session are in [appendix 3](#).



Committee members visit the NIHE's Causeway Office (Build Yes Pilot) - March 2016



Committee members visit the Incredible Edible Social Enterprise Project - March 2016

Stakeholder Events

45. The Committee held a fuel-poverty stakeholder event during the 2011-12 session. Stakeholders attending comprised relevant government departments, non-governmental organisations, statutory committee chairpersons and stakeholders from the public and private sectors to identify potential solutions to fuel poverty and a mechanism to take these forward.
46. It is the Committee's view that this approach complements formal stakeholder evidence sessions and had the benefit of drawing out ideas and innovative thinking from stakeholders as they worked together. The Committee continued to closely monitor the issue of Fuel Poverty and has closely scrutinised the implementation of the new Affordable Warmth programme.
47. In 2012-13, the Committee held a general stakeholder event to help inform its work programme and scrutiny of the Department's Housing Strategy and reform of Social Housing.



Members of the Social Development Committee with housing stakeholders

48. In 2012-13, the Committee also held an event to look at the issue of housing repossessions. Based on the discussions the Committee made recommendations to the Department to assist in the formulation of the work programme of the proposed Repossessions Working Group to be established in September/October 2013. The Committee agreed to continue to monitor this important issue and, most recently, received an update from the Department on the Repossessions Task Force in February 2016.

49. The Committee, in conjunction with the Chartered Institute of Housing, ran a ½ Day Seminar on ‘Building Future Homes’ in January 2016. Stakeholders from across the Housing Sector came together to discuss key themes impacting on sustainable supply of homes and the report of the event can be accessed [here](#).



Members of the Social Development with speakers at its Housing Supply Event, held in conjunction with the Chartered Institute of Housing (NI)

Issues and matters that an incoming committee may wish to consider

Primary Legislation

Community Regeneration

50. As the Minister for Social Development advised the Assembly in a Ministerial [Written Statement](#) that he had decided not to proceed with the Regeneration Bill as drafted, the Committee for the Communities may wish to ask the Minister for Communities what his or her plans are with respect to the issues the Bill was intended to address, including any transfer of functions to local government. The Committee for Social Development's Report on the Regeneration Bill can be accessed [here](#).
51. The Department has recently written to the Committee for Social Development outlining the interim arrangements for taking forward Belfast City Centre Regeneration Policy, given that the transfer of regeneration powers to local government has been postponed for an indeterminate period. DSD has said that it is willing to brief the Committee, alongside its Council colleagues, on the adoption of Belfast City Council's Regeneration and Investment Strategy. The Committee for Communities may wish to request this briefing.

Licensing Reform

52. During consideration of a Private Member's Licensing Bill, numerous Members and stakeholders expressed disappointment that an overall Bill on liquor licensing had not been brought forward by the Minister for Social Development.
53. The Committee for Social Development recommends that a bill on liquor licensing reform should be introduced in the Assembly by the Minister for Communities as a matter of priority and that the incoming committee may wish to liaise with the Department on this matter. The Committee for Social Development had heard extensive reports of missed opportunities and challenges that our outdated legislation is creating for the hospitality and entertainment industry, and indeed the wider economy, as well as difficulties that have been reported by the PSNI.

54. In a similar vein, the Committee took a number of briefings and submissions on the current gambling legislation. This is seen as outdated by stakeholders, indeed a public consultation was carried out in 2011 and it was anticipated that new legislation would be brought before the Assembly by the end of the mandate. The Committee for Social Development considers that reform is required and, without prejudice to the nature of what this reform may be, suggests that a bill on gambling reform should be introduced in the Assembly by the Minister for Communities as a matter of priority. The incoming committee may wish to liaise with the Department on this matter.
55. The Committee for Communities may also wish to follow up on the implementation of the Private Member's Licensing Bill. In particular the Committee may wish to examine the effectiveness of the operation of Stadium Community Committees. The Committee's Report of its consideration of the Private Member's Licensing Bill can be accessed [here](#).

Housing Legislation

56. The Committee for Social Development made a large number of recommendations in relation to the two Housing Bills - the [Housing \(Amendment\) Bill](#) and, to a greater extent, the [Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill](#). The Committee for Communities may wish to seek a briefing(s) from the Department on how it intends to take these recommendations forward.

Secondary Legislation

57. The Committee for Communities is likely to be asked to scrutinise a large volume of secondary legislation in respect of Welfare Reform / Welfare Reform Mitigation Measures.

Stakeholder engagement

58. The Committee recommends that the Committee for Communities consider engaging with the Building Change Trust and the Open Government Network to consider the 8 civic activism pilots currently running in NI. These should help provide insight into innovative ways to engage with stakeholders, particularly those hard to reach.

59. The Committee for Social Development noted correspondence from the Rural Residents Forum (RRF) raising a number issues regarding rural NI. The RRF wished to brief the Committee however there was insufficient capacity in the work programme to facilitate this. The correspondence is available from the Clerk should the Committee for Communities wish to consider engaging with RRF.

Policy Scrutiny

60. As a general point, the Committee for Communities may wish to note the list of items that were on the 'to be scheduled' section of the Committee for Social Development's Forward Work Programme at the end of the 2011-15 Mandate. These can be found in [appendix 4](#).

Welfare Reform

61. The Committee for Communities may wish to monitor the implementation of Welfare Mitigations using the checklist provided to the Committee for Social Development by Prof Eileen Evason.
62. In particular, the Committee for Communities may wish to closely monitor the adequacy of funding to the Advice Sector as this will be critical to the implementation of Welfare Reform here. The Committee Office will provide the Committee for Communities with a Panel Paper on support to be provided to the Independent Advice Sector for its consideration.

Housing

Review of the Role and Regulation of the Private Rented Sector

63. The Department for Social Development briefed the Committee in March 2016 on the outcome of its consultation on the Review of the Role and Regulation of the Private Rented Sector. Based on that briefing, the Committee recommends that the Committee for Communities consider this a matter of priority.

64. The Committee for Communities may also wish to follow up on recommendations contained in the [Report](#) on the Housing Amendment Bill in respect of sharing of information in relation to anti-social behaviour with private sector landlords.
65. The Committee for Communities may also wish to be mindful of the Committee for Social Development's recommendations that were made in the Committee [Report](#) on the Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill.

Social Housing

66. The Committee for Social Development has been greatly concerned that there is an urgent need for more social housing to be built here, as evidenced by the lengthening social housing waiting list and the numbers who present as homeless each year. To address this, the Committee for Communities may wish to explore issues such as the non-release of public sector land for housing development and consideration of greater use of vesting powers by the Department. The Committee for Communities may wish to liaise with the Department on actions to address barriers to social housing development.
67. There is of course a corresponding need for the allocation of adequate resources for the maintenance of social housing over the longer term. Therefore the Committee for Communities may wish to explore options for this maintenance programme.
68. There has been a recurring theme throughout the mandate on the need to provide wrap around services to protect the most vulnerable. The Committee for Communities may also wish to examine more closely how joined up working can be improved between Health and Housing to maximise the effectiveness of the Supporting People Programme, within the context of a freeze on funding.
69. The Committee for Communities may also wish to seek a presentation to provide it with the background and current status of the various elements of the Social Housing Reform Programme (SHRP). At the time of agreeing this Report, the Committee noted a submission from the Department for Social Development entitled Social Housing Reform Programme - Asset Commission Products. The incoming Committee for Communities may wish

to request a briefing on this submission as part of an overall briefing on the SHRP.

70. The Committee also noted that, at the time of the Committee agreeing this Report, the Minister had advised the Committee of his intention to make an oral statement to the Assembly in relation to the SHRP. This may necessitate follow-up in the new mandate.
71. There were a number of items relating to the SHRP programme on the 'to be scheduled list' at the close of the 2011-16 Assembly Mandate ([see appendix 4](#)). The Department had advised that Housing Division was still assessing the impact of the [Fresh Start Agreement](#) on the Options for Structural Reform of Social Housing and by extension the Local Government Engagement Discussion Paper. Therefore DSD was not in a position to brief SDC on these items.
72. The Committee for Social Development had agreed to hold a ½ day Seminar 'An Exploration of Social Housing Structures' in conjunction with the Chartered Institute of Housing. Due to pressures on its work programme towards the end of the Mandate however, the Committee agreed not to proceed. The event has however been scoped out ([see appendix 5](#)) and the Committee for Communities may wish to consider including it in its Forward Work Programme.
73. The objective of this information session from the Committee for Social Development's point of view was to consider options for alternative structures in the social housing sector without prejudice to the ongoing social housing reform programme. This seminar was to consider the benefits and detriments of different approaches in order to inform debate

Sustainable Housing Supply

74. DSD's Housing Supply Forum report published in January 2016 is available [here](#). The Committee may wish to seek a briefing on this report. The Committee for Communities may wish to consider this in the context of the [Report](#) on the Committee for Social Development's event 'Building Future Homes', held in conjunction with the CIH in January 2016.

Homelessness

75. Following its briefing on 3 March 2016 on the deaths of homeless people in Belfast, the Committee for Social Development recommends that the Committee for Communities seek an update on progress made towards greater collaboration between statutory and voluntary agencies which provide services to the homeless.
76. The Committee for Communities may wish to seek future updates from the Department on the pioneering Behavioural Analysis work the Repossessions Task Force is undertaking.

Fuel Poverty

77. The Committee for Communities may wish to continue to monitor the appropriateness and effectiveness of the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

Local Government

78. As the Department for Communities will have responsibility for Local Government (previously held by DOE) the Committee for Communities may wish to follow up on a number of recommendations made by the Committee for Social Development.
79. In its consideration of the Housing (Amendment) Bill, members agreed that there had been a missed opportunity for joined up government in not making provision in the Bill for sharing of information in relation to empty properties with councils. The Committee for Communities may wish to follow up on the principle of joined up government with the Department for Communities.
80. There were also significant recommendations in the Committee's report on the Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill. A number of these related to planning issues.
81. A suggestion has also been made [earlier](#) that the Committee for Communities may wish to establish what the Minister's plans are in relation to that which the Regeneration Bill was designed to deliver, in particular, transfer of certain functions to local government. The section above on the [SHRP](#) also refers.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Changes to Committee for Social Development membership during the 2011-16 Assembly Mandate

The membership of the Committee at the end of the Assembly Mandate is as follows:

Mr Alex Maskey (Chairperson)

Mr Fra McCann (Deputy Chairperson)²¹

Mr Jim Allister⁷

Mr Roy Beggs¹⁴

Ms Paula Bradley¹

Mr Gregory Campbell³

Mr Stewart Dickson¹¹

Mr Sammy Douglas^{2,4,5,6,8,9,12,13,15,16,17}

Mr Phil Flanagan²²

Mrs Dolores Kelly¹⁰

Mr Adrian McQuillan^{19,20,23}

¹With effect from 20 February 2012 Ms Paula Bradley replaced Mr Gregory Campbell

²With effect from 26 March 2012 Mr Alastair Ross replaced Mr Sammy Douglas

³With effect from 01 October 2012 Mr Gregory Campbell replaced Mr Alex Easton

⁴With effect from 01 October 2012 Mr Sammy Douglas replaced Mr Alastair Ross

⁵With effect from 11 February 2013 Mr Sydney Anderson replaced Mr Sammy Douglas

⁶With effect from 07 May 2013 Mr Sammy Douglas replaced Mr Sydney Anderson

⁷With effect from 09 September 2013 Mr Jim Allister replaced Mr David McClarty

⁸With effect from 16 September 2013 Mr Trevor Clarke replaced Ms Pam Cameron

⁹With effect from 16 September 2013 Mr Sammy Wilson replaced Mr Sammy Douglas

¹⁰With effect from 30 September 2013 Mrs Dolores Kelly replaced Mr Mark H Durkan

¹¹With effect from 01 October 2013 Mr Stewart Dickson replaced Mrs Judith Cochrane

¹²With effect from 06 October 2014 Mr Sammy Douglas replaced Mr Trevor Clarke

¹³With effect from 17 November 2014 Mr Maurice Devenney replaced Mr Sammy Douglas

¹⁴With effect from 09 February 2015 Mr Roy Beggs replaced Mr Michael Copeland

¹⁵With effect from 25 March 2015 Mr Maurice Devenney retired as a Member

¹⁶With effect from 20 April 2015 Mr Gary Middleton was appointed as a Member to the committee

¹⁷With effect from 18 May 2015 Mr Sammy Douglas replaced Mr Gary Middleton

¹⁸With effect from 03 June 2015 Mr Mickey Brady resigned as a Member

¹⁹With effect from 29 July 2015 Mr Sammy Wilson resigned as a Member

²⁰With effect from 07 September 2015 Mr Gordon Lyons was appointed as a Member to the Committee

²¹With effect from 08 September 2015 Mr Fra McCann was appointed as Deputy Chairperson to the Committee

²²With effect from 14 September 2015 Mr Phil Flanagan was appointed as a Member to the Committee

²³With effect from 05 October 2015 Mr Adrian McQuillan replaced Mr Gordon Lyons

Appendix 2 - Committee for Social Development - overview of Assembly Mandate 2011-16

Committee meetings & visits

Session	Number of meetings held	Percentage minutes public / closed	Number of meetings held outside Parliament Buildings	Number of committee visits
2011/2012	43	99 / 1	5	7
2012/2013	54	96 / 4	2	4
2013/2014	37	84 / 16	2	1
2014/2015	44	83/ 17	1	0
2015/2016	26	88/12	1	3

Bills

Session	Name of Bill	Committee report (Ordered to print)
2011/2012	Report on the Pensions Bill	8 March 2012
2012/2013	Report on the Charities Bill	23 October 2012
2012/2013	Report on the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) Bill	13 December 2012
2012/2013	Report on the Welfare Reform Bill	14 February 2013
2013/2014	Report on the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Bill	12 December 2013
2014/2015	Report on the Pensions Bill	19 February 2015
2014/2015	Report on the Regeneration Bill	28 May 2015
2015/2016	Report on the Housing (Amendment) Bill	7 January 2016
2015/2016	Report on the Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill	4 February 2016
2015/2016	Report on the Licensing Bill	16 February 2016

Committee Inquiries

Session	Name of report	Committee Report (ordered to print)	Date debated in Plenary (if applicable)
2013/2014	Inquiry into allegations, arising from a BBC NI Spotlight programme aired on 3 July 2013, of impropriety or irregularity relating to NIHE managed contracts and consideration of any resulting actions - Phase 1	3 July 2014	8 September 2014
2014/2015	Inquiry into allegations, arising from a BBC NI Spotlight programme aired on 3 July 2013, of impropriety or irregularity relating to NIHE managed contracts and consideration of any resulting actions - Phase 2	26 February 2015	N/A
2014/2015	Inquiry into allegations, arising from a BBC NI Spotlight programme aired on 3 July 2013, of impropriety or irregularity relating to NIHE managed contracts and consideration of any resulting actions - Phase 3	16 April 2015	12 May 2015

Statutory Rules

Session	Number agreed by Committee
2011/2012	62
2012/2013	40
2013/2014	56
2014/2015	42
2015/2016	30

Committee Reports (excluding Bill and Inquiry reports)

Session	Name of report	Date (date approved by Committee)	Date debated in Plenary (if appropriate)
2011/2012	Legislative Consent Motion associated with the Westminster Welfare Reform Bill	16 June 2011	28 June 2011
2011/2012	Report on Fuel Poverty	17 May 2012	28 May 2011
2012/2013	End of Session Report (12 May 2011 - 31 August 2012)	20 September 2012	N/A
2012/2013	Report on the Legislative Consent Motion associated with the Small Charitable Donations Bill	15 November 2012	20 November 2012
2013/2014	End of Session Report (September 2012 - 31 August 2013)	19 September 2013	N/A

2014/2015	End of Session Report (September 2013 - 31 August 2014)	18 September 2014	N/A
2014/2015	Report on the Legislative Consent Motion: The Westminster Pension Schemes Bill	8 January 2015	26 January 2015
2015/2016	End of Session Report (September 2014 to 31 August 2015)	17 September 2015	N/A

Witnesses

Session	Number of Organisations who give evidence to the committee
2011/2012	57
2012/2013	62
2013/2014	35
2014/2015	37
2015/2016	45

Appendix 3 - Committee for Social Development - Summary of the 2015/2016 Session

End of Session Reports for the 2011-12; 2012-13; 2013-14; and 2014-15 sessions can be found [here](#).

An End of Session summary of activity for the 2015-16 Sessions is as follows:

Primary Legislation

Housing (Amendment) Bill

1. The Bill encompassed three key areas. These were: Sharing of information relating to empty properties; Disclosure of information relating to anti-social behaviour; and Registration as statutory charge of certain loans. The Department responded positively to a number of Committee recommendations including a request for an amendment to Clause 2. The Report of the Committee Stage of the Bill can be accessed [here](#).

Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill

2. The Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill aims to introduce better regulation of houses in multiple occupation by introducing a licensing regime. The Committee was largely satisfied with the content of the bill though it raised a number of issues on some clauses.
3. The Committee noted the positive response from the Department on these matters. The Report of the Committee Stage of the Bill can be viewed [here](#).

Licensing Bill.

4. The Committee completed its consideration of this Private Member's Bill within extremely tight timescales approaching the end of the Assembly Mandate. The Bill aims to establish outdoor stadia on the same footing as the SSE Arena - an indoor stadium - in respect of liquor licensing. The Committee therefore supported the Bill's aim to introduce a new type of licence applicable to outdoor stadia as defined in the Bill and proposed its own amendment to allow sale of liquor at racing tracks on a Sunday. The Report of the Committee Stage of the Bill can be viewed [here](#).

Subordinate Legislation

5. The Committee considered 32 items of Subordinate Legislation in the 2015-16 Session.

6. In February 2016, the Committee recommended that the Assembly affirm The Charities Act 2008 (Designated Religious Charities) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 as it considered that there are sufficient checks and balances in place to allow the dis-application of section 86 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to designated religious charities here.
7. In March 2016, the Committee considered secondary legislation in relation to Welfare Reform mitigations. The Committee recommended that the Welfare Supplementary Payments Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 be affirmed by the Assembly.

Budget Scrutiny

8. The Committee was briefed by the Department on several occasions during the 2015-16 session on budgetary matters.
9. It received an [oral briefing](#) on the November monitoring round and a written update on the outcome January 2016 technical monitoring round. The Committee also received two briefings in February 2016 (on the [4th](#) and [25th](#)) on the 2016-17 Budget.
10. In relation to the 2016-17 budget, the Committee noted that the Department, like others, is facing a 5.7% reduction in its budget based on the 2015/16 baseline. This equates to £25.7m. It also has to meet a number of inescapable funding pressures. Coupled with its integration into the new Department for Communities and the possibility that priorities might change when a new Minister assumes the helm following the election, there is more than a degree of uncertainty about not only the level of funding but to what programmes it will be allocated.
11. The Committee recognises the difficulty that the Department has had in balancing the books and continuing to provide the same *level* of services and *range* of services that it currently does

Engagement, visits and external meetings.

12. During the 2015-16 session, the Committee undertook several visits and held a half day seminar to engage stakeholders on various areas of its work.

Building Future Homes Seminar

13. The Committee, in conjunction with the Chartered Institute of Housing, ran a ½ Day Seminar on 'Building Future Homes' in January 2016. Stakeholders from

across the Housing Sector came together to discuss key themes impacting on sustainable supply of homes and the report of the event can be accessed [here](#).

Stewartstown Road Regeneration Project - Committee visit

14. On the 4 February 2016 the Committee visited the Stewartstown Road Regeneration Project where it received presentations and heard first-hand about the work of the project which has transformed the area. Members also heard about the work of the Suffolk-Lenadoon Interface Group during the visit.

Fold Housing - Committee visit

15. On 25 February 2016, the Committee received presentations on the work of Housing Associations at its meeting. Following the conclusion of Committee business some members visited the offices of Fold. Presentations were made on Fold's development at Ravenhill, the challenges of Welfare Reform to tenants, Development and Fold's development methods, Supported Housing and the need for greater dementia awareness. Members then visited Fold's Telecare/Telehealth Service Centre (the only such centre in the UK offering a nurse triage service).

External Meeting - NIHE Build Yes Pilot Area (Causeway)

16. As part of NIHE's Journey to Excellence programme it has introduced a "Systems Thinking" (branded as 'Build Yes') approach to understand what matters most to its customers in order to redesign NIHE systems. The aim is to completely redesign its customer facing services and establish new ways of working for staff and their leaders.
17. There are currently 6 pilot areas trialling this approach with customers receiving an individually tailored service that aims to deliver the appropriate solutions to their housing needs first time, every time. Results have been positive so far with improved customer and staff satisfaction and a reduction in end to end times for service delivery.
18. The committee agreed to visit one of the offices - the Causeway office - to see the impact that the transformation on our services and held a Committee meeting there.
19. Following the meeting members of the Committee visited the Incredible Edible project in Clough Mills.

Financial Information - 2015-16

Expenditure for the period 1 September 2015 - 28 May 2016

Budget area	Details	Expenditure
Committee Travel	Includes committee members and staff travel and subsistence in relation to visits and meetings outside Parliament Buildings	tbc
Advertising - the cost of public notices relating to committee inquiries, the committee stage of Bills and meetings held outside Parliament Buildings	Includes the cost of public notices in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill • Licensing Bill 	1275.74
Refreshments & Hospitality	Includes the cost of all refreshments and hospitality provided by the committee; to include meetings, working lunches, seminars and any other such expenditure.	1086.46
Total expenditure		tbc

Appendix 4 - Committee for Social Development 'Forward Work Programme - remaining 'to be scheduled items' at the end of the Assembly Mandate 2011-16

Departmental Briefings:

- Departmental Briefing - Passport Benefits (expected June 2016)
- Departmental Briefing - European Funding (tbc - under Department for the Communities)
- Department's Response to the PAC/NIAO Report The Governance of Land and Property in the NIHE (DFP will commission a Memorandum of Reply from the Department after the PAC publish their report. This will be in the new Mandate)

Housing:

- Options Appraisal for Structural Reform of Social Housing
- SHRP Local Government Engagement Discussion Paper

(Housing are still assessing the impact of the Fresh Start Agreement on the Options for Structural Reform of Social Housing and by extension the Local Government Engagement Discussion Paper. Therefore DSD will not be in a position to brief SDC on these items in this current term.)

- Allocations Review Departmental Consultation (Consultation will take place after May 2016.)

Pending written briefings:

- Update on Employment and Support Allowance Research (expected June)

Appendix 5 - An Exploration of Social Housing Structures Seminar (Scoping Document)

The objective of this information session would be to analyse options for alternative structures in the social housing sector without prejudice to the ongoing social housing reform programme. This seminar would consider the benefits and detriments of different approaches in order to inform debate.

Suggested discussion area	About / suggested speaker
Overview of fiscal rules	Public sector net debt is the debt measure used by the UK that includes public corporations under government debt. The most widely used measure however is general government gross debt - for example used by the EU, IMF, OECD and credit rating agencies - where public corporations are precluded from government debt. Suggested organisation - e.g. Chartered Institute of Housing.
Arms-length management organisations (ALMOs)	ALMOs are non-profit organisations that provide housing management services to councils in Britain. Ownership of the stock can remain with the council. Suggested organisation - e.g. National Federation of ALMOs.
Co-operative and mutual housing	The nature of co-operative and mutual housing schemes vary but a common factor is some level of community or stakeholder ownership, for example tenants or employees of the housing provider. As the structure is in the not-for-profit sector it is able to raise private finance. Suggested organisation - e.g. Merthyr Valley Homes.
Community land trusts (CLTs)	CLTs are non-profit organisations where the land value is held in trust; they can also develop and manage housing on the land such as co-operative housing or shared-equity ownership where mortgages are only taken out on the bricks and mortar, aiding affordability. Suggested organisation - e.g. EOS Future Design.
Stock transfer	Transfer of stock to housing associations - who have the ability to raise private finance to regenerate stock - can be used as a tool to improve property standards while tenant consent remains a key consideration. Suggested organisation - e.g. Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

