



# Northern Ireland Assembly

## COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITIES

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Thursday 24 November 2016  
Room 29 Parliament Buildings**

Present: Colum Eastwood MLA (Chairperson)  
Michelle Gildernew MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Andy Allen MLA  
Jonathan Bell MLA  
Naomi Long MLA  
Nichola Mallon MLA  
Fra McCann MLA  
Adrian McQuillan MLA  
Carál Ní Chuilín MLA  
Christopher Stalford MLA

In Attendance: Kevin Pelan (Assembly Clerk)  
Ashleigh Mitford (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Paula Best (Clerical Supervisor)

Apologies:

*The meeting commenced in open session at 10:16 am*

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies are recorded above

#### **2. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting of 17 November 2016 were agreed.

### **3. Chairperson's Business**

The Chairperson advised members that he has been invited to a showcase event of BBC NI's Christmas Appeal with Age NI on 29 November.

### **4. Matters Arising**

The Committee noted HMRC's response to the Committee's invitation to brief it on its decision not to renew the Concentrix Tax Credits contract in 2017.

*Agreed:* Having noted that around 250 existing Belfast based Concentrix staff have transferred into HMRC the Committee agreed to seek information from HMRC in relation to arrangements regarding their terms and conditions.

### **5. Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill – Consideration session with the Department for Communities**

The Committee noted a draft issues paper from the Clerk, correspondence from the Department and 3 Assembly research papers in relation to the Bill.

The following departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:18 am

- Liam Quinn
- Carol Reid

The Committee and the Department discussed the issues set out in the paper.

*Naomi Long joined the meeting at 10:26 am*

*Colum Eastwood joined the meeting at 10:30 am and took the Chair*

*Adrian McQuillan joined the meeting at 10:31 am*

*Jonathan Bell joined the meeting at 10:46 am*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that at its meeting on 1 December 2016 it would establish its views on each of the Bill's provisions and put these to the Minister for consideration.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to clarify concerns raised by Asda in relation to *Clause 11 – Prohibition on self-service and sales by vending machines.*

The officials left the meeting at 11:08 am

*The session was recorded by Hansard*

### **6. Regeneration Briefing**

The Committee noted a briefing paper from the Department and a copy of the Minister for Communities' Oral Statement of 22 November 2016.

The following departmental officials joined the meeting at 11:09 am:

- Bernie Rooney – Grade 5, Community Regeneration & Housing
- Mark O'Donnell - Grade 5, Belfast Regeneration
- Barbara McGread – DP, Governance and Planning
- Tony McKibben - Grade 7 – Urban Policy & EU Funding

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

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to follow up on a number of issues with the Department.

*Jonathan Bell left the meeting at 11:52 am*

The officials left the meeting at 11:57 am

### **7. SL1 The Occupational Pensions (Revaluation) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016**

The Committee noted the SL1

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

*Jonathan Bell joined the meeting at 11:57 am*

### **8. SL1 The Social Security (Credits and Crediting and Treatment of Contributions) (Consequential and Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2016**

The Committee noted the SL1

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

### **9. Correspondence**

The Committee noted a correspondence memo.

The Committee noted the Department for Communities Disposal of Records Schedule.

Carál Ní Chuilín declared an interest as a former Minister.

Question Put and Agreed:

*That the Committee of Communities has considered the Disposal of Records Schedule for the Department for Communities and has no objections to the schedule.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content to action all other correspondence as outlined on the correspondence memo

### **10. Forward Work Programme**

The Chairperson advised members that the agenda for the meeting of 1 December 2016 is busy and therefore it was proposed to include a brief suspension for lunch. Members indicated that they were content.

The Committee noted its draft Forward Work Programme and a draft itinerary for its visit to Stella Maris and Housing First in Belfast after the Committee meeting of 8 December 2016.

The Committee noted details of a Chartered Institute of Housing Event ‘New Models for Rented Homes’ on the afternoon of 8 December 2016 at the Pavilion, Stormont which the Committee is invited to attend. The Chairperson advised that he has been invited to chair the event.

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the itinerary for the day.

The Chairperson reminded members that the Committee has previously agreed to pursue work in relation to homelessness as one of its strategic priorities and that this work would include an event in the new year.

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with a proposal from the Clerk that the event be developed in conjunction with stakeholders and that it take place in the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings, on 16 February 2017. Given that the Committee agreed that there is a need to take a multi-disciplinary approach to homelessness, the Committee agreed to invite the chair of the Committee for Justice and chair of the Health Committee to participate.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider how similar cross-committee work may be taken forward in relation to domestic violence.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft FWP (as amended to include the homelessness event on 16 February 2017)

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to include representatives from Utility Street Men’s Hostel, Sandy Row, in its homelessness stakeholder event in February.

## **11. AOB**

The Committee commended the Assembly’s Research and Information Service for the excellent papers that it has provided on the Licensing and Registrations of Clubs (Amendment) Bill.

## **12. Date, time and location of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee for Communities will take place on Thursday 1 December 2016 at 10.00 am in room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:05 pm*

**Chairperson, Committee for Communities**

**1 December 2016**