



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY  
FIRST MINISTER  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
WEDNESDAY 27 MAY 2015  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)  
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Alex Attwood  
Mr Alex Maskey  
Ms Bronwyn McGahan  
Mr David McIlveen  
Mr Stephen Moutray  
Mr Jimmy Spratt

Apologies: Mr Michael Copeland  
Ms Megan Fearon  
Mrs Brenda Hale

In Attendance: Mrs Kathy O'Hanlon (Assembly Clerk)  
Miss Karen Jardine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)  
Miss Allison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

*The meeting began in closed session at 2.00 pm.*

**1. Inquiry into Building a United Community**

The Committee considered a confidential paper outlining areas for potential recommendations on the Inquiry into Building a United Community.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to bring the paper back for a fuller discussion at next week's meeting.

*The meeting moved into open session at 2.02pm.*

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were noted as above.

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

#### First Minister

*Agreed:* Members agreed that the Chairperson would write to the First Minister to express its best wishes for a full and speedy recovery from his recent illness.

#### Northern Ireland Kinship Care

The Committee noted a request from Northern Ireland Kinship Care to brief the Committee on its work; and noted that the Committee for Employment and Learning had received a briefing from NI Kinship Care at its meeting earlier on 27 May 2015.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that Committee staff would listen back to the oral briefing from NI Kinship Care to the Committee for Employment and Learning to identify any issues which may be relevant to the Committee's remit.

#### Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

### **4. Draft Minutes of the meetings held on 20 May 2015**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the proceedings of 20 May 2015 were agreed by the Committee.

### **5. Matters Arising**

#### Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry

The Committee noted a response from the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry team following queries regarding the addition of further modules to the Inquiry remit.

#### Commission for Victims and Survivors

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request sight of the Commission for Victims and Survivors advice in relation to proposed models for a pension for the seriously injured.

#### List of Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

### **6. Correspondence**

### Committee for Social Development

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Social Development inviting views on the Inquiry into allegations of impropriety or irregularity relating to NIHE managed contracts; and noted that the views of the First Minister and deputy First Minister had also been sought.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the First Minister and deputy First Minister to request that the Committee is copied into any response to the Committee for Social Development on this matter.

### EU Affairs newsletter

The Committee noted the latest EU Affairs newsletter prepared by the Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Manager.

### Together: Building a United Community

The Committee noted a response from OFMDFM regarding the content of the Summer Camps Pilot Programme; and a further response from the Department following a request for information those organising summer camps and the geographical spread of the camps.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to include both items of correspondence in the Building a United Community Inquiry papers.

### Public Services Ombudsperson Bill

The Committee noted correspondence from a member of the public regarding public sector employees and the scope of the Public Services Ombudsperson Bill.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to reply to the member of the public advising that the focus of Public Services Ombudsperson Bill is on the citizen as a recipient of a public service; and that there are a number of avenues open to public sector employees regarding employment disputes.

## **7. Draft Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme to July 2015; and noted that the Department had requested that the briefings on the Executive's EU Priorities, scheduled for 3 June, be postponed until 24 June.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to postpone the briefing relating to the Executive's EU Priorities; and to hold the meeting scheduled for 10 June in the Senate Chamber, following a request from the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

## **8. Children's Services Co-operation Bill.**

The Committee noted correspondence from the Bill Sponsor indicating that he considers responsibility for compiling the co-operation report in respect of the legislation, should lie with the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister. Members noted that the Bill Sponsor has indicated he is generally supportive of the direction being taken by OFMDFM with regard to proposed amendments, but that he wished to see final proposals before making a decision regarding bringing forward further amendments.

The Committee noted an updated timetable for the remaining stages of the Committee's consideration of the Bill.

*The Chairperson suspended the meeting at 2.18pm.*

*The Chairperson resumed the meeting at 2.20pm with the following Members in attendance:*

*Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chair), Ms Bronwyn McGahan, Mr Alex Maskey, Mr David McIlveen, Mr Stephen Moutray, Mr Jimmy Spratt.*

## **9. Delivering Social Change**

*Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.22 pm*

Dr Mark Browne, Deputy Secretary; and Mr Joe Reynolds, Director of Programme for Government and Delivering Social Change, appeared before the Committee for discussion and questions on Delivering Social Change. The evidence session was recorded by Hansard.

*Mr Lyttle returned to the meeting at 2.24pm.*

*Mr Moutray left the meeting at 3pm.*

Officials agreed to provide further information on a number of issues relating to individual Signature Programmes and information on the mid-term evaluation, scheduled for March 2014, as outlined in the Programme for Government commitments relating to the Social Investment Fund.

*The officials left the meeting at 3.05 pm.*

*Mr Maskey left the meeting at 3.05pm.*

## **10. Social Investment Fund**

*Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.06 pm*

Dr Mark Browne, Deputy Secretary; Mr Ricky Irwin, Director of Social Investment Fund and Victims; and Lawrence Hyland, Head of Social Investment Unit, appeared before the Committee for discussion and questions on the Social Investment Fund. The evidence session was recorded by Hansard.

*Mr Moutray returned to the meeting at 3.07pm.*

*Mr Lyttle declared an interest as a member of the East Belfast Area Steering Group.*

Officials agreed to provide further information on a number of issues including: details of Steering Group Zones which have never had representation from the business community; more detail on the Transitions/Early Intervention Project in the South Eastern Zone; and clarification on the Department's general position on the release of Gateway Reviews.

*The officials left the meeting at 3.56 pm*

#### **11. Any Other Business**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to circulate the Official Report of the departmental briefing on Delivering Social Change to relevant statutory committees for their information.

There was no other Committee business.

#### **12. Date, Time and Location of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 2.00 pm in Room 30 on Wednesday 3 June 2015.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.58 pm.*

**Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister**