



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 21 May 2015
Room 29, Parliament Buildings

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

The Deputy Chairperson commenced the meeting at 10:05 am.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meetings held on 14 and 19 May 2015 were agreed.

3. Chairperson's Business

10.07 am Gregory Campbell joined the meeting.

The Committee noted that the Chairperson and Roy Beggs represented the Committee at the Assembly Community Connect dinner event on Tuesday 19 May 2015 with Social Enterprise NI.

4. Matters Arising

Agreed: The Committee agreed its response to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsperson Bill.

5. DSD Business Plan 2015/16 – Departmental Briefing

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10.08 a.m.

- Ian Snowden
- Brian Doherty
- Deborah Brown
- Tracy Meharg

The Committee noted the Department's Business Plan 2015/16.

The officials briefed the Committee.

10.19 am Sammy Wilson joined the meeting.

The briefing was followed by questions from members.

10.30 am Alex Maskey joined the meeting and took the chair at 10.32am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request further information on a number of issues from the Department. This included information on child maintenance legacy cases, the Affordable Warmth scheme, urban village regeneration projects and the Supporting People programme.

The representatives left the meeting at 11:25a.m.

6. Regeneration Bill – Clause by Clause

The Committee noted a late submission in relation the Regeneration Bill from the North West Community Network.

Agreed: the Committee agreed to include the submission in the appendices of its Report.

The Committee noted a summary table, a copy of the Bill and various proposed amendments.

The following officials joined the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

- Henry McArdle
- Ian Snowden
- Antony McDaid

The Committee considered the first proposed amendment to the Bill which had been submitted by Mr Allister and Mr Wilson.

11.42 am: Roy Beggs declared an interest, Sammy Douglas declared an interest.

Sammy Wilson proposed the following amendment to clause 1:

Clause 1

1.-(1) A council may provide financial assistance to any person doing or intending to do, anything which the council considers will promote economic and/or social regeneration in an area in its district.

(2) In particular financial assistance may be provided under this section for-

(a) the promotion, development or regeneration of commercial, industrial or other economic or social regeneration activities,

(b) the improvement of the environment,

(c) the provision of housing,

(d) the provision of social or community facilities, or

(e) the refurbishment or restructuring of buildings.

(3) Financial assistance under this section may include-

(a) grants;

(b) loans;

(c) guarantees;

(d) the taking of any interest in property or in a body corporate.

Financial assistance under this section for the provision of housing requires the approval of the Department.

Question put:

That the Committee is content with the amendment to clause 1 as proposed by Mr Wilson

The Committee divided

Ayes	Noes	Abstained	Not voting
Roy Beggs	Alex Maskey		
Paula Bradley	Mickey Brady		
Gregory Campbell	Dolores Kelly		
Stewart Dickson	Fra McCann		
Sammy Douglas			
Sammy Wilson			

The amendment was agreed.

Sammy Wilson also proposed the following amendment to clause 1 which had been submitted by Mr Allister:

Clause 1, Page 2, line 4

At end insert – ‘(5) No assisted project may, by title or content or in any way, promote or refer to anyone with a serious criminal conviction, as defined in section 5 of the Civil Service (Special Advisers Act (Northern Ireland) 2013’

Question put:

That the Committee is content with the amendment to clause 1 as proposed by Mr Wilson

The Committee divided

Ayes	Noes	Abstained	Not voting
Roy Beggs	Alex Maskey		
Paula Bradley	Mickey Brady		
Gregory Campbell	Dolores Kelly		
Stewart Dickson	Fra McCann		
Sammy Douglas			
Sammy Wilson			

The amendment was agreed.

Clause- by- Clause Consideration of the Bill

The Committee conducted its clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. The Committee noted that should the amendments be agreed by the Assembly during Consideration Stage and there were consequential amendments as a result then these would be identified and taken forward by the Department.

12.47 pm Sammy Douglas left the meeting.

Question Put by the Chairperson:

That the Committee is content with Clause 1 subject to the agreed amendments.

The Committee divided

Ayes	Noes	Abstained	Not voting
Roy Beggs	Alex Maskey		
Paula Bradley	Mickey Brady		
Gregory Campbell	Dolores Kelly		
Stewart Dickson	Fra McCann		
Sammy Wilson			

The amendment was agreed.

Agreed: Clauses 2 - 5 were accepted by the Committee as drafted.

Agreed: Clause 6 was accepted by the Committee as amended by the Department.

Agreed: Clauses 7 - 10 were accepted by the Committee as drafted.

Agreed: Clause 11 was accepted by the Committee as amended by the Department.

Agreed: Clauses 12 – 23 were accepted by the Committee as drafted.

Agreed: Schedules 1 to 3 were accepted as drafted.

Agreed: The long title of the Bill was accepted as drafted.

The officials left the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

Agreed: The Committee will agree its final report on the Committee Stage of the Regeneration Bill at its meeting on 28 May 2015.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

7. Correspondence

- 7.1** The Committee considered correspondence from Unite the Union in relation to workers who have been transferred to the Housing Executive's Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) as a result of TUPE arrangements. The Committee also noted a July 2014 Departmental correspondence on the DLO and a recent answer to an Assembly Question in relation to its increasing scale and costs.

11.59 am Mickey Brady left the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a briefing on the DLO from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive as soon as possible on the above issues.

- 7.2** The Committee considered a correspondence memo.

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

8. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a briefing in relation to the Northside Regeneration consortium.

12.00p.m. Dolores Kelly left the meeting.

9. AOB

12.01 p.m. Sammy Douglas joined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from CRISPP (Committee Representing Independent Supporting People Providers) on the review of the Supporting People programme.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on 28 May 2015 at 10:00am.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.02 pm.

Alex Maskey

Chairperson, Committee for Social Development

28 May 2015