



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 25 June 2015
Room 29, Parliament Buildings

- Present: Mr Alex Maskey MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Jim Allister MLA
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Ms Paula Bradley MLA
Mr Gregory Campbell MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson 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 (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Richard Reid (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: Mr Sammy Douglas MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA

The meeting commenced at 10:05 a.m.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

10:06 a.m. Gregory Campbell joined the meeting

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meetings held on 18 June 2015 were agreed.

3. Chairperson's Business

None raised

4. Matters Arising

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister for Social Development, indicating that he has written to the Speaker seeking a date for the introduction of the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Bill.

The Committee noted that the HMO Bill and the Housing (Amendment) Bill will be introduced in the Assembly on 30 June 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule an evidence session with Daniel Greenberg, legislation drafting expert, at the Committee meeting of 17 September 2015.

The Committee noted the Pensions Schemes Bill Delegated Powers Memorandum from the Department for Social Development. The Chairperson advised members that the Committee would not normally receive this, having agreed to the accelerated passage of the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the memo should be forwarded to the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

The Committee noted that a motion for Accelerated Passage and the Second Stage of the Pensions Schemes Bill are scheduled for 30 June 2015.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee on Standards and Privileges in relation to the recommendations contained in its phase 3 Inquiry Report.

5. Social Housing Reform Programme - Consultation Report on the Tenant Participation Strategy - Departmental briefing

The following departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

- Mr Paul Price - SHRP Programme Manager
- Mr Shane Clements - SHRP Policy Project Manager

The Committee noted a briefing paper.

The officials briefed the Committee.

The briefing was followed by questions from members.

10:24 a.m. Sammy Wilson joined the meeting

10:31 a.m. Fra McCann left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request that the Department provide it with a copy of the ‘Tenant Participation Action Plan’ which will accompany the final version of the Strategy, ahead of its publication in the Autumn.

The representatives left the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

6. Supporting People Review Findings – Departmental briefing

The following departmental officials joined the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

- Mr Stephen Martin Deputy - Director, Housing Policy
- Mr Finbar Cummins – Review Team Leader
- Mr Conrad Murphy – Head of Supported Housing Branch

The Committee noted a cover note and briefing paper.

The officials briefed the Committee.

The briefing was followed by questions from members.

11:30 a.m. Paula Bradley left the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider ways of cross-committee working with colleagues on the Health Committee to support the Department for Social Development on related cross-departmental issues.

The representatives left the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

7. Northside Regeneration Project

The following departmental officials joined the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

- Mr Martin McDermott – North East Quarter Project Manager (DSD), Belfast Regeneration Directorate
- Mr Mark O’Donnell - Director of Regeneration for Belfast (DSD), Belfast Regeneration Directorate

The Committee noted a briefing paper.

The officials briefed the Committee.

The briefing was followed by questions from members.

11.39 a.m. Paula Bradley joined the meeting.

11.48 a.m. Gregory Campbell left the meeting.

Agreed: The Department would provide regular updates to the Committee in relation to the progress of the project.

The representatives left the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

8. Housing Amendment Bill – Departmental Briefing

The following departmental officials joined the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

- Dr Heloise Brown – Head of Housing, Research and Legislation
- Mr Stephen Baird – Legislation Manager
- Ms Avril Hiles – Private Rented Housing
- Ms Maryann Dempsey – Private Rented Housing

The Committee noted that the Minister intends to introduce the Bill in the Assembly on 30 June 2015.

The Committee noted a copy of the Bill, the Explanatory and Financial Memorandum and a briefing paper from the Department.

The officials briefed the Committee.

The briefing was followed by questions from members which focussed on the possible provision of information regarding tenants to private landlords.

The officials left the meeting at 12.29 p.m.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

9. SL1- New State Pension Regulations 2015

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

10. Correspondence

The Committee considered a correspondence memo.

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

11. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed its Forward Work Programme.

12. AOB

No items were raised.

13. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on 2 July 2015 at 10:00am.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Alex Maskey

Chairperson, Committee for Social Development

2 July 2015