



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 19 November 2015
Room 29, Parliament Buildings

- Present: Mr Alex Maskey MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Fra McCann MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Jim Allister MLA
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Ms Paula Bradley MLA
Mr Gregory Campbell MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mr Sammy Douglas MLA
Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA
- In Attendance: Dr Kevin Pelan (Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Ashleigh Mitford (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stewart Kennedy (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Alicia Muldoon (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: Mr Phil Flanagan MLA

The meeting commenced in open session at 10.03 a.m.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2015 were agreed.

3. Chairperson's Business

No items were raised.

4. Matters Arising

10.04 am: Sammy Douglas joined the meeting

Members returned to correspondence in relation to DSD's Draft Guide to Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (NI) 2014 which was noted by the Committee last week.

10.07 am: Gregory Campbell left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed a response to the Department in which it acknowledged and welcomed the positive amendments to the Guide. The Committee also recommended continual monitoring and periodic updates on the implementation of the Guide.

5. Housing (Amendment) Bill Committee Consideration – Departmental Briefing

The following departmental officials joined the meeting at 10.08 am

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

The Committee noted a memo from the Clerk setting out a summary of key issues in relation to the Bill.

The officials briefed the Committee.

10.22 am Gregory Campbell joined the meeting

The Committee considered issues in relation to the Bill.

The Chair advised members that the Department would present its final position on outstanding issues and the Committee would informally consider the clauses of the Bill at the Committee meeting of 26 November 2015.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 10.30am

This session was recorded by Hansard.

6. Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill Evidence Session – Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations

The following representatives joined the meeting at 10.31 am

- Mr Cameron Watt, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations.

- Raymond Nicholl, Director of Development, Triangle Housing.

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

The representatives left the meeting at 11.21am

This session was recorded by Hansard.

7. Royal Exchange Scheme – Departmental Briefing

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 11.22 am

- Mr Mark O'Donnell, Director of Belfast Regeneration Directorate, DSD
- Mr Kieran Devlin, Deputy Director of North East Quarter Team, DSD

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

Sammy Douglas declared an interest as his son is in a business partnership in the area.

11.45 am Gregory Campbell left the meeting.

11.50 am Adrian McQuillan joined the meeting

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11.50 am

8. SL1 The Occupational Pensions (Revaluation) Order (NI) 2015

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

9. SR 364 The Charities Act 2008 (Examination of Accounts) Order (NI) 2015

The Committee had no objections to the rule.

The Chairperson read the following motion into the record:

“That the Committee for Social Development has considered the Statutory Rule SR364/2015 The Charities Act 2008 (Examination of Accounts) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report, has no objection to the Rule.”

10. Correspondence

The Committee noted a correspondence memo.

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

The Committee noted two items of correspondence from the Department in relation to the HMO Bill.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister in relation to yesterday's motion on Welfare Reform in plenary.

11. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed its Forward Work Programme.

12. AOB

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider how it could assist in the raising of awareness during homelessness awareness week.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek an update from the Department on the outcome of the November Monitoring Round.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a briefing on the proposals of the working group, led by Professor Eileen Evason, to maximise the use of the additional resources allocated to 'top-up' the UK welfare arrangements in NI.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department how it plans to ensure that the Advice Sector is equipped with the knowledge and resources required to deliver advice following the introduction of Welfare Reform legislation.

The Committee welcomed the scheduling of an update briefing on the Affordable Warmth Scheme on 3 December 2015.

13. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on 26 November 2015 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.55 a.m.

Alex Maskey

Chairperson, Committee for Social Development

26 November 2015