



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 26 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
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: Ms Paula Bradley MLA
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA
Ms Dolores Kelly MLA

The meeting commenced in open session at 10.02 am

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2015 were agreed.

3. Chairperson's Business

Members noted an invitation to Speak Up's regional homelessness event on 10 December in Belfast. Members also noted that he and the Clerk will attend the event.

Agreed: Any other member wishing to attend would contact the Committee Office.

Members noted that, as part of Homelessness Awareness week, the Council for the Homeless (the sponsor organisation of Speak Up) would like to arrange a photo opportunity with members of the Committee and young people involved in the project. This will take place on Tuesday 1st December at 11:30 am on the steps of Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson advised members that he has discussed the issue of Syrian refugees with the Department; in particular, the possibility of the Department briefing the committee on its arrangements to host the refugees and subsequently of jointly hosting an information session for *all* members of the Assembly.

10.07 am Gregory Campbell joined the meeting

4. Matters Arising

Members noted correspondence from the Minister for Social Development and agreed to discuss this under AOB.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer its Departmental Briefing on the Affordable Warmth Scheme to 7 January 2016 to allow the Department to provide the most accurate and up to date picture. An update on the Boiler Replacement Scheme should be provided as part of this briefing.

5. Housing (Amendment) Bill - Committee Consideration

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 worked through the key issues relating to the Bill with the assistance of the Departmental officials.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to further consider the clauses of the Bill at its meeting on 3 December 2015. The formal Clause-by-Clause Consideration of the Bill is also scheduled for 3 December.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 10.35 am

This session was recorded by Hansard.

6. Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill - Committee Consideration

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10.36 am

- Mr Stephen Martin, Housing Policy Delivery, DSD
- David Grimley, Private Rented Sector, DSD
- Ronan Murphy, Private Rented Sector, DSD
- Christine Hayes, Private Rented Sector, DSD

The Committee noted an issues paper from the Department.

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek further information from the Department.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11.32am

This session was recorded by Hansard.

7. Review of the Northern Ireland Co-Ownership Housing Association (NICHA) – Departmental Briefing

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting 11.32 am

- Mr Stephen Martin, Housing Policy Delivery, DSD
- Ms Julie Lavery, Project Manager of Co-Ownership Scheme Review, DSD
- Mr Mark Graham, Director of Development Co-Ownership Housing Association, DSD

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

11.42 am Gregory Campbell left the meeting

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11.50 am

8. Review of Supporting People Programme – Departmental Briefing Update

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting 11.51 am

- Mr Stephen Martin, Housing Policy Delivery, DSD
- Mr Conrad Murphy, Head of Supported Housing, DSD
- Ms Jenny McGuigan, Deputy Head of Supported Housing Team, DSD

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

11.52 am Sammy Douglas left the meeting

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 12.02pm

9. SL1 The Charities Act 2008 (Examination of Accounts) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 – Departmental Briefing

and

10. SL1 Charities Act 2008 (Substitution of Sums) Order (NI) 2015 – Departmental Briefing

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting 12.02pm

- Mr Peter Toner, Head of VCU Charities, Policy and Legislation Team, DSD
- Mr Martin Ireland, Deputy Principal of the Charities Team, DSD
- Ms Fiona Muldoon, Official, Charity Commission for Northern Ireland

11.52 am Sammy Douglas left the meeting

The Departmental officials briefed the Committee on the above mentioned SL1s and this was followed by questions from members.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 12.13 pm

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for both Rules to be made.

11. SR 372/2015 The Occupational Pension Schemes (Power to Amend Schemes to Reflect Abolition of Contracting-out) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 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 SR 372/2015 The Occupational Pension Schemes (Power to Amend Schemes to Reflect Abolition of Contracting-out) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report, has no objections to the Rule.”

12. Correspondence

The Committee noted a correspondence memo.

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

13. Forward Work Programme

12.14 pm Roy Beggs left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed its Forward Work Programme as amended.

14. AOB

The Committee noted that the Minister has made a Written Ministerial Statement to the Assembly on the Regeneration Bill in which he details his reasons for not proceeding with the Bill as currently drafted.

No other items were raised.

15. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on 03 December 2015 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.16 p.m.

Alex Maskey

Chairperson, Committee for Social Development

03 December 2015