LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
20th Meeting, 2014 (Session 4)
Wednesday 25 June 2014

Present:
Cameron Buchanan  Mark McDonald
Stuart McMillan  Anne McTaggart
Alex Rowley  Kevin Stewart (Convener)
John Wilson (Deputy Convener)

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

1. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee considered the following negative instruments:

   - Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2014 (SSI 2014/139), and
   - Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Developments) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2014 (SSI 2014/142).

   The Committee agreed not to make any recommendations to the Parliament in relation to these instruments.

2. **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered and agreed its general approach to scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1. The Committee also agreed to:

   - write to the Scottish Government seeking further information on the Policy Memorandum on the Bill; seeking a written response by 1 August, 2014 and to consider this response, in private, at a future meeting;
   - a timetable for the scrutiny of the Bill;
   - issue a call for written evidence;
   - issue a targeted call for written and oral evidence from specific key stakeholders;
• delegate to the Convener and the clerks responsibility for agreeing witnesses for weeks 1 and 2 of oral evidence taking;
• consider what other witnesses it wishes to take oral evidence from, after the conclusion of the public call for written evidence;
• request that SPICe provide suitable analysis, briefing and advice on the various policy sections of the Bill;
• utilise any external meetings, or fact finding visits, undertaken by the Committee for the purpose of engaging with community groups, and others, on the Bill;
• delegate to the Convener and the clerks responsibility for formulating a media strategy on the Committee’s scrutiny of the Bill;
• utilise financial considerations of the Bill as part of a wider mainstreaming approach to budget scrutiny;
• delegate to the Convener and the clerks responsibility for agreeing any claims made under the SPCB’s witnesses expenses policy;
• discuss oral evidence received, in private, at future meetings;
• consider any further approach to scrutiny of the Bill, along with all drafts of the Stage 1 report to the Parliament, in private, at future meetings.

3. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered and agreed its work programme for the period up to June 2015. As part of this programme the Committee agreed to——

• seek a Chamber debate on its inquiry report into Flexibility and Autonomy of Local Government, and the Scottish Government’s response to the report, in due course;
• take oral evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth, COSLA, and others as required in later 2014, on the draft local government finance circular (which provides details of the provisional allocations to local councils), as part of its mainstreaming of budget scrutiny, and to consider a more detailed approach to this work at a later date.

4. **Flexibility and Autonomy of Local Government (in private):** The Committee considered a revised draft report. A number of changes were agreed to and the Committee agreed the report.

The meeting closed at 10.58 am.

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