

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

6th Meeting, 2023 (Session 6),

9.00am: Committee Room 6 (Hybrid Meeting)

Convener's Brief

Pre-Brief from 8.45am

BOLD TEXT – WHAT CONVENER IS TO READ OUT.

- *Boxed, italic text – instructions for Convener*

PRIVATE PRE-BRIEF 8.45am

Good morning and welcome to the private pre-brief before the public meeting starts at 9.00am.

We have two evidence sessions on our agenda. First, we'll take evidence from the Minister on two of the Cost of Living Tenant Protection regulations before we will debate the motion. Members will note that further written evidence has been submitted to the Committee since the issuing of the papers and the clerks and SPICe would be happy to answer any questions in relation to them as well as any questions around the process this morning.

We'll then hear from two separate panels of witnesses on the Community Planning Inquiry.

We will then consider two negative SSIs and then go into private to consider the evidence heard and correspondence on the Review of Local Governance.

- Invite Members to indicate their preferred questions for the Cabinet Secretary on the first evidence session on (pages 6 to 8 of the SPICe Briefing/pages 17 to 19 of the meeting pack)

RESTRICTED – PRIVATE PAPER

- Invite Members to indicate their preferred questions for the three panels of witnesses on the second evidence session (pages 7 to 10 of the SPICe Briefing/pages 35 to 38 of the meeting pack)
- Note that the Committee will have the opportunity to consider the evidence heard, in private, under items 6 and 7.
- Invite Members to indicate if they have any queries for the Clerks or SPICe.

Conclude discussion by 8.55am to prepare for start of meeting.

PUBLIC SESSION

Meeting opens

9.00am

Good morning and welcome to the 6th meeting in 2023 of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee.

I remind all Members and witnesses to ensure that their devices are on silent and that all other notifications are turned off during the meeting.

Agenda item 1: Decision on taking business in private 9.01am

The first item on our agenda today is to decide whether to take items 6, 7, 8 and 9 in private. Are Members agreed?

PROCESS

Following agreement, thank members and move to item 2.

Agenda item 2: The Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022 (Amendment of Expiry Dates and;

The Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act (Early Expiry and Suspension of Provisions) Regulations 2023 Cap Modification) Regulations 2023 9.02am

Thank you. We now turn to agenda item 2 which is to take evidence on The Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022 (Amendment of Expiry Dates and Rent Cap Modification) Regulations 2023; and

The Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act (Early Expiry and Suspension of Provisions) Regulations 2023 from —

- Patrick Harvie, Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights , Scottish Government

Mr Harvie is joined for this item by Scottish Government officials—

- Adam Krawczyk, Head of Housing, Homelessness and Regeneration, Communities Analytical Division;
- Poppy Prior, Lawyer; and
- Yvette Sheppard, Head of Housing Services and Rented Sector Reform Unit.

I welcome the Minister and his officials to the meeting and invite him to make an opening statement.

PROCESS

invite questions from members.

Once questions have concluded (by approx. 10.00am), thank witnesses and move to item 3.

I thank the Minister and his officials for their evidence today.

Agenda item 3: Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Short-term Lets) (Amendment) Order 2023 9.45am

We now turn to agenda item 3 which is consideration of the motion on the instrument.

I invite the Minister to move motion S6M-07566 —

That the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee recommends that the The Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland)

Act 2022 (Amendment of Expiry Dates and Rent Cap Modification) Regulations 2023 be approved.

PROCESS

After motion has been moved invite any comments from Members.

Invite Ministe to respond if necessary (officials not permitted to speak under this item)

Thank you. Do Members have any further questions for the Cabinet Secretary?

The Question is that motion S6M-07703 in the name of Patrick Harvie be approved. Are we all agreed?

PROCESS

If not agreed, there will be a division. Ask Members to indicate—

- *All in favour;*
- *All against;*
- *Any abstentions.*

Read out result of vote and state that the Committee's report will be published after the meeting.

Thank you. The Committee will publish a report setting out its recommendation on the instrument in the coming days.

Agenda item 4: Subordinate legislation XXam

The next item on our agenda for today is consideration of—

There is no requirement for the Committee to make any recommendations on negative instruments.

PROCESS .

Ask whether members have any comments on the instruments.

Following agreement, thank Members and confirm outcome before suspending the meeting to allow a change over of witnesses.

Do Members have any comments on the instruments?

Is the Committee agreed that we do not wish to make any recommendations in relation to the instruments?

Thank you.

I now suspend the meeting to allow a change of witnesses

Agenda item 4: Community Planning Inquiry: Post-Legislative Scrutiny of the Community Empowerment Act 2015 XXXam

PROCESS

Once seated, welcome witnesses

The next item on our agenda today is to take evidence from two panels of witnesses on Community Planning Inquiry: Post-Legislative Scrutiny of the Community Empowerment Act 2015

We are joined on our first panel of witnesses in the room by—

- **Carol Calder, Audit Director, Audit Scotland**
- **Stuart Graham, Representative, Community Planning Network; and**
- **Tim McKay, Deputy Chair, Accounts Commission.**

And online we are joined by—

- **Councillor Steven Heddle, Vice President, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).**

I welcome our witnesses to the meeting. We will try to direct questions to a specific witness where possible but if you would like to come in, please indicate this to the clerks. Cllr Steven as you are appearing virtually, please do this by typing “R” into the chat function. I would now like to begin by asking... We would like to begin by asking....

PROCESS

Invite questions from members.

Once questions have concluded/by approx. 10.55am, thank witnesses and briefly suspend to allow a changeover of witnesses.

Thanks for your evidence today.

I now suspend the meeting to allow a change of witnesses.

PROCESS

Once seated, welcome witnesses

And on our second panel we are joined in the room by—

- **Peter Kelly, Director, The Poverty Alliance;**
- **Kirsty McNeill, Policy and Research Officer, Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER); and**
- **Ruth Whatling, Head of Policy and Equality, Homeless Network Scotland.**

And we are joined online by—

- **David Allan, Deputy Director, Scottish Community Development Centre.**

I welcome the witnesses to the meeting. As mentioned to the first panel, we will try to direct questions to a specific witness where possible but if you would like to come in, please indicate this to the clerks. David as you are appearing virtually, please do this by typing “R” into the chat function. I would now like to begin by asking...

PROCESS

Invite questions from members.

Once questions have concluded/by approx. 11.45pm, thank witnesses and suspend briefly to allow a changeover of witnesses.

Thanks for your evidence today.

We agreed at the start of the meeting to take the next two items in private so, as that was the last public item on our agenda for today,

I NOW CLOSE THE PUBLIC PART OF THE MEETING.

PRIVATE SESSION

Agenda item 7: Subordinate legislation

12:40pm

We now have the opportunity to discuss the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.

PROCESS

Invite comments from members.

Do Members have any comments?

Thanks for your comments.

**Agenda item 8: Understanding Barriers to Local Elected Office:
12.50pm**

The final item on our agenda is to consider draft letters to political parties containing a number of questions on actions they are taking in respect of the work we have done on understanding barriers.

Do members have any comments on the draft letters?

PROCESS

Invite comments from members. Following comments agree approach.

Agenda item 8: Review of Local Governance 12.30pm

The final item on our agenda is to consider a draft letter XXXX

Do members have any comments on the draft letter?

PROCESS

Invite comments from members. Following comments agree approach.

Thank you.

As that was the final item on our agenda for today,

I NOW CLOSE THE MEETING.