Local Government and Regeneration Committee

Remit and membership

Remit:

To consider and report on a) the financing and delivery of local government and local services, and b) planning, and c) matters relating to regeneration falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment.

Membership:

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

Committee Clerking Team:

Clerk to the Committee
David Cullum

Senior Assistant Clerk
Fiona Darwin

Assistant Clerk
Seán Wixted

Committee Assistant
Ben Morton
Local Government and Regeneration Committee

2nd Report, 2014 (Session 4)

Subordinate Legislation

The Committee reports to the Parliament as follows—

1. At its meeting on 26 February 2014 the Local Government and Regeneration Committee considered the following negative instruments.

Local Government Pension Scheme (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations (SSI 2014/23)

2. The Local Government Pension Scheme (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations (SSI 2014/23) was laid before the Parliament on 24 January 2014.

3. The instrument introduces amendments to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in Scotland. It will ensure that eligible job holders are automatically enrolled into the LGPS, whilst also maintaining the right of the employer to apply a three-month postponement period for employees on contracts of less than three months. This provision has effect from 1 February 2013.

4. The instrument also makes provision for two other changes, both of which come into force on 4 March 2014. Firstly, it will allow a person who, on leaving the LGPS, has paid additional voluntary contributions to transfer the accumulated value to an alternative pension scheme. This would give the person an alternative option to purchasing an annuity. Secondly, it requires that where an administering authority has not paid the full amount of a member’s death grant before the expiry of two years from the date of the member’s death, the authority must pay any shortfall to the member’s executors.

5. The Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee had no comments to make on this instrument, and the Local Government and Regeneration Committee agreed not to make any recommendations to the Parliament in relation to this instrument.

Non-Domestic Rate (Scotland) Order 2014 (SSI 2014/28)

6. The Non-Domestic Rate (Scotland) Order 2014 (SSI 2014/28) was laid before the Parliament on 6 February 2014.
7. The instrument prescribes a rate of 47.1 pence in the pound as the non-domestic rate to be levied throughout Scotland in respect of the financial year 2014-15. The instrument comes into force on 1 April 2014. For financial year 2013-14, the non-domestic rate is 46.2 pence in the pound.

8. The Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee had no comments to make on this instrument, and the Local Government and Regeneration Committee agreed not to make any recommendations to the Parliament in relation to this instrument.

Non-Domestic Rates (Levying) (Scotland) Regulations 2014 (SSI 2014/30)

9. The Non-Domestic Rates (Levying) (Scotland) Regulations 2014 (SSI 2014/30) was laid before the Parliament on 6 February 2014.

10. The instrument makes provision from 1 April 2014, for reductions in non-domestic rates as a result of the Small Business Bonus Scheme. The instrument includes the percentage of rate relief to be applied. Also, payday lenders will no longer be able to benefit from rate relief under the Small Business Bonus Scheme. The instrument also provides for a poundage supplement of 1.1 pence in the pound on larger business properties with a rateable value in excess of £35,000.

11. The Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee had no comments to make on this instrument and the Local Government and Regeneration Committee agreed not to make any recommendations to the Parliament in relation to this instrument.
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