

OUTSTANDING ACTION POINTS FROM LGH MEETINGS

Action point [lead Division]	Progress	Target completion date
Second meeting: 7 February 2001		
02-02 The Minister agreed to keep the Committee informed of progress with the review of core funding of voluntary organisations concerned with homelessness. [HD]	Officials have met with relevant organisations in relation to the outcome of the review. Further follow-up meetings to be held April onwards.	Committee will be informed of outcome in April .
Fourth meeting: 14 March 2001		
04-05 The Minister agreed to report in due course on the results of the planned research project to examine social housing rent levels [HD]	The contract has been awarded to Cambridge University and has now commenced.	May 2003. (Delay due to problems in obtaining data from some LAs)
09-05 The Minister undertook to arrange informal meetings between the Committee and construction firms, in the context of 'Rethinking Construction'. [HD/Comsec]	Following her meeting with the industry professions' primary representative body in Wales, the Construction Industry Council Wales, on 24 June, the Minister has asked officials to liaise with CiC over future 6 monthly meetings and take forward a number of action points relating to training and capacity building. Officials will invite CiC to arrange 6 monthly diary dates Future presentations/meetings by construction firms to the committee will be developed in conjunction with the newly established Rethinking construction Centre for Wales. These to be arranged through Rethinking Construction Centre For Wales.	Ongoing
Eleventh meeting: 18 July 2001		
11-01 The Minister agreed to continue to update the Committee on progress on the <i>Community First</i> programme. [CD]	Regular updates included in the Minister's written and oral reports.	Ongoing
11-05 The Minister will inform the Committee of the outcome of her review on the effectiveness of Tenant Participation Compacts. [HD]	A review of tenant participation compacts will be carried out as part of a wide-based review of the Assembly Government's policies on tenant participation and empowerment.	Review to be commenced in Summer 2003.
11-15 The Minister agreed to report back to the Committee on where, in the Housing Research Programme, the following subjects are covered:(HD) • Houses in multiple occupation		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Regulations 	<p>To be considered following the introduction of the changes to the Renovation Grant regime and the publication of the associated guidance.</p> <p>Minister wrote to ODPM Minister on 11 December 2002, response awaited.</p>	<p>)Now in Housing Bill announced in Queen's Speech, 13 November 2002.)))))Committee updated11)December 2002))))))</p> <p>Still awaiting response from several Las on WHQs)))))))))</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surplus Council houses and the effect on local authority budgets. 	<p>This will be considered further following the completion by local authorities of their investment needs to comply with the WHQS. In carrying out this exercise, local authorities will need to assess the ongoing need for existing stock.</p>	
<p>11-20 The Minister agreed to provide an interim report on the Household and Dwelling survey. [HD]</p>	<p>The Cabinet agreed on 25 November 2002 to proceed with the Welsh Household and Dwelling Survey. The format agreed is for a continuous household survey covering three years, 2004 to 2006, with a condition assessment of the housing stock in 2005. The first year of the household survey will focus mainly on housing issues with the following surveys broadening the topics covered. Each survey will be sufficient to provide results for Wales and, with two or three years data combined, results for the Economic For a areas and Wales respectively. The project is out to tender. Project due to start in May..</p>	<p>Report to Committee end of April 2003.</p>
<p>Thirteenth meeting: 7 November 2001</p>		
<p>13.04 The Minister agreed to look at means of encouraging local authorities to comply with the new Local Housing Strategy guidance. [HD]</p>	<p>Principal guidance 'Preparing Local Housing Strategies' issued June 2002. The formal process calls for consultation to include the Assembly on draft Local Housing Strategies by July 2003. This will allow compliance to be assessed.</p>	<p>July 2003.</p>

<p>13.05 The Minister agreed to look into the possibility of assisting town and community councils in increasing access to the internet.</p> <p>[LGM/LGF]</p>	<p>This issue has been included in the specification for the research study on town and community councils</p> <p>(See also 05-03 below).</p>	<p>April 2003.</p>
<p>13.06 The Minister agreed to report back to the Committee on the outcome of the scoping study. [LGM]</p>	<p>The contract for the research study is scheduled to be awarded on 22 March with the researchers submitting their final report on 1 April 2003. A committee discussion will be scheduled after that date.</p>	<p>Spring/summer 2003.</p>

Fourth meeting: 13 February 2002

<p>04-07 The Minister agreed to report back to the Committee on further proposals to raise awareness of the risk of radon in residential properties.</p> <p>[HD]</p>	<p>Proposals for the future of the testing programme being developed by NRPB and BRE in discussion with interested local Authorities.</p>	<p>Submission to Minister April 2003.</p>
---	---	---

Fifth meeting: 6 March 2002

<p>05-03 The Minister report back to the Committee on the assistance and guidance available to town and community councils on increasing public access to the internet. [LGM]</p>	<p>The Assembly's research project into the role, functions and future potential of town and community councils will examine the extent of e-mail and internet use between community councils and other bodies and recommend how the use of such modern technology by community councils could be encouraged.</p>	<p>The research project will be completed by April 2003</p>
--	---	---

Seventh meeting: 24 April 2002

<p>07-05. The Minister to discuss with Jane Hutt the possibility of issuing further guidance on "exclusions " that may have resulted as an effect of domestic violence. [HD]</p>	<p>This issue, and the related issue of rent arrears in such circumstances, were discussed at the first meeting of the All Wales Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women Working Group Information has been collected from local authorities although this has proved to be a difficult process. A report is currently under consideration for the next meeting of the Group.</p>	<p>Submission to Minister March 2003.</p>
---	---	---

07-14. The Minister to look at the changes in definitions of homelessness and report on their implementation.	The Housing Directorate will carry out a review of implementation of homelessness policy by local authorities, with a focus on the Priority Needs Order and its impact. Contract started October 2002. The results will inform the final versions of the Code of Guidance on Homelessness and Allocations and the National Homelessness Strategy, both to be debated in Plenary 25 March.	Draft report due early March 2003. Final report April 2003
[HD]		

Ninth meeting: 22 May 2002

09-03 The Minister's reports to include reports of her meetings with the voluntary sector when appropriate. [HD]	A report will be provided by the Minister following meetings with the voluntary sector. Next six-monthly meeting scheduled for post May election – June 2003	Next report July 2003
---	--	-----------------------

09-04 The Minister to discuss with the WLGA and possibly survey a sample of local authorities on the working of the new political structures, after they have been operating for twelve months. [LGM]		October 2003.
--	--	---------------

Tenth meeting: 12 June 2002

10-04 The Minister to liaise with other Ministers and consult with the WLGA and the WFHA on evidence of refusal of planning permission for residential care centres for all vulnerable groups. [HD]	Consultation underway. Responses awaited. Organisations chased.	Evidence to be submitted April 2003
--	---	-------------------------------------

10-12 The Minister to involve the Committee in the proposed review of Assembly Government tenant participation / empowerment policies, programmes and funding. [HD]	A wide-based review of the Assembly Government's policies on tenant participation and empowerment to be carried out as part of the 2003-04 Housing Research Programme.	Review to be commissioned in Spring 2003.
--	--	---

Eleventh meeting: 26 June 2002

Eleventh meeting: 26 June 2002

11-01 The Minister to keep the Committee informed of developments on the draft Local Government Bill. [LGM]	Progress to be reported as appropriate.	Update included in Minister's Oral Report to Committee on 27 November 2002. Agenda item 15 January 2003.
--	---	--

Twelfth meeting: 10 July 2002

12-01 The Minister to keep members informed, if necessary on a private and confidential basis of developments on the Management crisis in the Newtown Housing Association. [HD]	As an interim measure the Minister has made 3 statutory appointments on the committee of management of NHA to support the committee until the statutory inquiry is completed.	Progress report to Committee 27 November 2002. The Appointment of the Statutory Appointees continuing and making effective contribution to the Management Cmte
12-02 The Minister to report on the possibility of the inquiry into the Newtown Housing Association, prioritising issues which may effect the benefit claims of tenants. [HD]	Interim report received November 2002. Final report expected by end of December 2002.	Consultant appointed. The inquiry is continuing and remains on target for the submission of an interim report by end November 2002. This item is linked to 12.1 above. The interim report has been considered and now anticipating the final report by March 2003

Thirteenth meeting: 16 October 2002

13.3 The Minister to report on the "Good Practices" emerging from the Social Housing Management Grant Programme. HD	Reports from 2001-2002 projects are currently being received and analysed by Housing Directorate officials	Officials will prepare a summary of emerging good practice by Spring 2003
13.4 The Minister to report on how Local Authorities are consulting, involving partners etc. in accord with the community strategy process LGM	Work in Progress	Minister's written report to Committee 5 March 2003

Fourteenth meeting: 30 October 2002

14.3 The Minister to provide a note on Partnership Council meetings in future written reports. LGM		Implemented for Partnership Council meeting on 20 January 2003. Will continue for future meetings.
14.4 Issues of the similarity of house design to be raised with house builders. HD	Opportunities currently being considered as to best way of progressing issue	Ongoing
14.8 Officials to examine the possibility of the Community Fire Safety Working Group broadening its social impact by linking with the Supporting Parenting initiative announced by Jane Hutt. The Minister to report back to Committee HD	Officials currently considering implications prior to discussion with CFSW Group membership and reporting back to Minister.	Ongoing
14.11 The Minister to report back to Committee at an appropriate time on the issues raised in the report by the Audit Commission in Wales on Rent Arrears & Housing Benefit HD	Officials have in hand.	Spring 2003

Sixteenth meeting: 13 November 2002

16.3 The Minister to write to the WLGA on the importance of encouraging Councillors to attend courses in relation to their role as corporate parents LGM	Issue covered by WLGA at Committee on 15 January 2003	WLGA to write to Committee with details of take-up rates.
16.6 The Minister to ask officials to examine the possibility of setting aside funds to assist GP's in counselling on substance misuse CSU	Advice has been obtained from Senior Medical Officer and advice on a plan of action will be with the Minister (including a costing and service models) will be with the Minister by 24 January at the latest.	Advice to Mrs Hart by 24 th January

Seventeenth meeting: 27 November 2002

17.05 The Minister to update the Committee on the outcome of the statutory enquiry into Newton HA. HD	See 12.01 and 12.02	
17.08 The Minister to update the Committee on the fitting of sprinklers in schools. HD	Discussions between Assembly officials, the Fire Services and LEAs on-going, over potential pilot programme.	No firm date as yet.
17.09 The Minister to update the Committee on the Housing Bill. HD		Updates will be given to Committee periodically in due course.
17.13 The Minister to report to the Committee on the issue of executive members being both school governors and members of an authority and the role of elected members of town and community councils and local authorities in the planning application process. LGM	To be considered alongside other comments on draft Code of Conduct guidance. Final guidance to be issued early in New Year	Report to LGHC early in New Year
17.14 Officials to look at guidance to Local Authorities on monitoring homelessness in BME sector. HD	Officials are considering wording in draft Code of Guidance on homelessness and allocations. A research project on this topic is planned for 2003/4	Officials have in hand and will report in due course.

Eighteenth meeting: 11 December 2002

18.02 The Minister would determine specific targets on tackling substance misuse and would keep the Committee updated on any announcements relating to substance misuse. CSU	To be included in Minister's next written report	5 March 2003
18.04 The Minister would report back to Committee on a quarterly basis regarding the evaluation of Communities First. Communities	Ongoing. First report to be in March 2003.	Contract specification to be sent to Chair of Committee on 21 February and progress to be included in report for Committee on 5 March.

18.05 The Minister would ascertain the level of information (possibly down to ward level) that would be available from the evaluation of Communities First and report back to Committee. Communities	This information will not be available until after evaluators have been appointed in May 2003.	June 2003.
18.08 The Minister would advise the Committee of the name of the Chief Executive of the Community Fire Safety Trust once the appointment was confirmed. HD	Following discussions on 24 January the Trustees are still considering their options in relation to the appointment of the Trust Chief Executive.	Post May elections
18.09 The Minister would arrange for an informal meeting between the Committee and the Chief Executive of the Community Fire Safety Trust once appointed. HD	See 18-08 above	Post May elections
First Meeting: 15 January 2003		
1.01 The Minister to circulate copies of the revaluation leaflet to members for information LGF	As soon as the draft leaflet has been agreed by the Minister, copies will be circulated .	
1.04 The Minister to share with Committee the results of the Homebuy review HD	Review due to be completed by end of February	March 2003
1.06 The Minister to update the Committee in due course on her further discussions on the police settlement LGF	The Minister reported on the final outcome of these discussions at the Committee on 12 th February	Completed. The Minister updated Committee during February 2003.
1.07 The Minister to write to the Deputy Prime Minister's office on further information on the "Right to Buy etc" qualifying years HD	ODPM has announced changes to the Right to Buy maximum discount limit for England. The Minister is in contact with ODPM and will inform the Committee of developments in due course. ODPM is expected to make an announcement before the next Committee meeting	The Minister has sent a ("Restricted: Policy") letter to ODPM about possible changes to the Right to Buy. Officials are currently preparing advice for Ministers following the recent consultation on a possible change to the maximum discount allowed under the Right to Buy.
Second Meeting: 29 January 2003		
2.01 The Minister would update the Committee in due course on developments regarding severance pay. LGM	Officials meeting with ODPM 12 th February	
2.04 The Minister would report back to Committee on a number of issues pertaining to Communities First Partnerships, including the their composition and, if possible attendance patterns. Communities		Completed. The Minister wrote to the Chair on 12 February.

2.05 The Minister would report back to Committee on the proportion of grant being used to cover administrative costs etc. under the Communities First budget. Communities		Completed. The Minister wrote to the Chair on 12 February.
2.07 The Minister agreed to update the Committee at its next meeting on the issue of Community Safety Officers their role and whether all LAs have such officers. CSU	To be included in the Minister's next written report to Committee	5 March 2003
2.09 The Minister agreed to provide the Committee with an update on DAATs at its next meeting. CSU	To be included in the Minister's next written report to Committee	5 March 2003
2.10 The Minister would report back to Committee on how the proposed Licensing Bill would affect Community Halls etc in small communities and provide a suitable update on the passage of the Bill. LGM	To be included in the Minister's next written report to Committee	5 March 2003
2.11 The Minister would provide a note to Committee on local authority functions and responsibilities once the consultation exercise was complete. LGM	Consultation to start first week of February	April 2003
2.12 The Minister would provide an update in her next written report on Youth Offending Team's. CSU	To be included in Minister's next written report	5 March 2003
2.13 The Minister would update the Committee on the Drug and Alcohol Agenda in her next written report. CSU	To be included in Minister's next written report	5 March 2003
2.14 The Minister to keep the Committee updated on the Wales Programme for Improvement and the protocol agreed with the Audit Commission . LGM		An update to be included in the Minister's report to Committee on 19 March 2003
third Meeting: 12 February 2003		
3.01 Minister agreed to provide a written update on the Licensing Bill as part of her next report to the Committee. See 2.10. LGM	To be included in the Minister's next written report to Committee	5 March 2003
3.02 Minister will arrange for information circulated to the Culture Committee relating to community aspects of the Licensing Bill to be made available to the Committee. LGM	To be included in the Minister's next written report to Committee	5 March 2003

<p>3.03 Minister agreed to provide a note to Committee on the Revenue Support Grant (Specified Bodies) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2003. LGF</p>		<p>Completed. The Minister wrote to the Chair on 14 February.</p>
<p>3.04 Minister would provide a note to Committee on a number of issues pertaining to the Sunderland Report, in particular the proposed voting age, means of voting and Freepost facility LGM</p>	<p>The Minister wrote to the Committee on 26 February informing them that this information would be provided at 2 April meeting.</p>	<p>2 April 2003.</p>
<p>3.05 The Minister to provide the post election committee with a further paper on the application of the Community Care (Delayed Discharges) Bill in Wales. SCP</p>		<p>Post May elections</p>