

Petitions Committee

PET(3) 08-10 : Minutes

Date: Tuesday 15 June 2010

Time: 09.30 - 10.34

Venue: Committee Room 1, Y Senedd, Cardiff Bay

Assembly Members in attendance

Christine Chapman AM, Cynon Valley (Chair)
Andrew RT Davies AM, South Wales Central
Mike German AM, South Wales East
Bethan Jenkins AM, South Wales West

Officials

Naomi Stocks, Clerk
Andrew Minnis, Deputy Clerk
Joanest Jackson, Legal Advisor

1. Introductions, Apologies and Substitutions

No apologies were received.

2. New Petitions

P-03-272 Equines should not be utilised underground

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Await the response from the Minister for Rural Affairs

P-03-282 Continue funding Early Onset Dementia support services

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Await the response from the Minister for Health and Social Services

P-03-292 Public Toilet Provision

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Await the response from the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

Write to the Health, Well Being and Local Government Committee to ask if they will undertake an inquiry on the issue

Write to the Welsh Local Government Association asking for details of public toilet provision by Local Authorities

Write to the planning departments of Local Authorities asking what requirements are in place for provision of toilet facilities in out of town developments

3. Updates to Previous Petitions

P-03-065 NHS Dental Charges

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the petitioner seeking their views on the response from the Minister for Health and Social Services and the British Dental Association

P-03-150 National Cancer Standards

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Local Health Boards asking whether they are in a position to meet the targets during 2010, and if not what action they are taking to address the failure and when will they be in a position to meet the targets.

Review the latest report from the Wales Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit

Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services asking how performance information will be communicated to the public in an accessible format

P-03-170 Mencap Cymru Employment

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Chair of the Equality of Opportunity Committee to obtain an update on the Committee's scrutiny sessions with the National Assembly for Wales and Welsh Government

Invite the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning to give evidence to the Committee

Write to Mencap Cymru requesting details of the results of Cer Amdani! Research project

Commission a briefing from Members Research Service on the effectiveness of the implementation of policies that support people with learning disabilities securing employment

P-03-183 Improving rail services in Aberystwyth

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Close the petition and prepare a summary report making reference to the work of the Mencap Cymru Partners in Politics programme.

P-03-206 Free swimming all year round

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the petitioners with the information gathered by the Committee

Write to the Minister for Heritage requesting information on how the scheme is publicised, and in particular whether a uniform approach is adopted

Write to the Welsh Local Government Association asking whether the programme is sustainable given that no additional funding has been provided

P-03-207 Support for the Unemployed in Monmouth

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Revisit the petition in the autumn term if no further update is received.

P-03-211 Care Facilities for Dementia Sufferers

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write the Minister for Health and Social Services asking for further information on how the ongoing work on Dementia services will meet the aims of the petition and what specific work is being undertaken by Government to address shortages and costs of care home spaces

Write to the Welsh Local Government Association to request information on planning of service provision for care homes and accountability for decision making

P-03-234 Wales needs more native trees

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Rural Affairs requesting further information on how the Woodlands for Wales Action Plan will meet the aims of the petition, seeking confirmation of the timescales for implementation, details of how stakeholders will be able to contribute to the review of the woodland grant scheme, and further information, with timescales, for implementation of the First Steps grant scheme.

P-03-243 Withdraw from the West Cheshire / North-East Wales Sub-regional Strategy

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Communities and Culture Committee asking whether they would be able to consider the issues raised by the petition

Write to the Sustainability Committee asking them to consider the petition in their inquiry into planning

Write to the Minister for Business and Budgets asking whether a decision has been made on the review of the strategy.

Write to the petitioners to make them aware of the Sustainability Committee's inquiry into planning

Write to the Council's covered by the Strategy to seek clarity on the concerns raised about the development and use of population projection figures

P-03-246 Abandon the 50mph speed limit on the M4 at Newport

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Deputy First Minister asking why Traffic Wales do not collect detailed information on traffic flow, how decisions are taken and justified in its absence, and what data is collected.

P-03-248 Improved Access to Public Transport for People with Disabilities

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Equality of Opportunity Committee asking whether they can consider further work on the wider issues raised by the petition, further to their current inquiry into rail accessibility

Write to Arriva Trains Wales asking whether they will conduct a review of the impact of access issues on passengers

P-03-253 Adoption of Private Sewers

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing asking that the petitioners be included in consultation on the transfer of private sewers

Write to the petitioners with details of the Committee's findings to date and seeking their views on the planned transfer in 2011, while highlighting that a consultation is scheduled for the summer

Write to the Consumer Council for Water seeking their views on the petition

P-03-256 Additional Trains to Fishguard

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Deputy First Minister asking when the Rail Forward Programme will next be reviewed

Write to the petitioners to update them on progress

P-03-261 Local Solutions to Newtown Traffic Congestion

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the petitioners asking whether the Deputy First Minister's response answers their concerns

Write to the Deputy First Minister asking for clarification of when the announcement of the decision on a preferred solution for the Newtown bypass will be announced

P-03-263 List Stradey Park

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Heritage asking for his views on whether he would consider introducing a new category to provide protection to historic sporting grounds, whether local authorities should be obliged to create a local list, and if this should provide protection for listed properties

Write to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing seeking her views on whether local listing should be a material consideration in planning decisions

P-03-270 Action for Children

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Consider and agree terms of reference for an inquiry on the issues raised by the petition

P-03-277 Change the decision to sell alcohol at the Urdd Eisteddfod

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Urdd to seek further details of the planned evaluation of the availability of alcohol at the Eisteddfod and whether, as a result, they intend to sell alcohol at future events

Write to the Minister for Heritage asking how much funding was provided by the Welsh Assembly Government and whether it is provided to fund specific activities

P-03-278 Vitamin B12 Deficiency

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the petitioner providing details of the options for pursuing the issue highlighted by the Minister for Health and Social Services

P-03-284 Brynmawr Social Housing Petition

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to Melin Homes asking how they plan to engage the community in the development of plans for the site.

Write to the petitioners asking whether they are using the planning process to raise their concerns

4. P-03-197 Save the Vulcan - Government Response

The Committee considered the government's response to the Committee's report.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Formally close the petition but monitor Welsh Assembly Government actions in response with a view to inclusion of these issues in the Committee's legacy report.

**Committee Service
June 2010**