

Petitions Committee

"Minutes: PET(3) 15-10 : Tuesday 30 November 2010"

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Time: 09.30 – 10.21

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

Veronica German AM, South Wales East

Bethan Jenkins AM, South Wales West

Officials

Naomi Stocks, Clerk

Andrew Minnis, Deputy Clerk

Joanest Jackson, Legal Advisor

Rhodri Wyn Jones, Committee Support

Item 1. Introductions, Apologies and Substitutions

The Chair welcomed committee members and members of the public.

Item 2. New Petitions

P-03-266 Re-open the Mold Railway

The committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action points:

The committee agreed to:

await the response from the Deputy First Minister.

P-03-288 National Strategy on Independent Living

The committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action points:

The committee agreed to:

await the response from the Deputy Minister for Social Services.

P-03-308 Save Gwent Theatre

The committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action points:

The committee agreed to:

await the response from the Minister for Heritage.

P-03-309 Cardiff against the incinerator

The committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action points:

The committee agreed to:

await the response from the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing.

P-03-310 Policies to protect pupils needs and rights

The committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action points:

The committee agreed to:

await the response from the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning.

Item 3. Updates to previous petitions

P-03-085 Surgeries in Flintshire

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

write to Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board asking to be kept informed of the developments in relation to their discussions with Flintshire County Council;

write to the petitioners to make them aware of the University Health Board response, highlighting that the board have indicated that they will include the petitioners in the development process and asking to be updated on the effectiveness of this involvement.

P-03-150 National Cancer Standards

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

write to the petitioner to seek their views on the responses received from the Health Boards asking whether these reflect their experience of cancer services; and

write to the Minister for Health and Social Services asking for a revised timeframe for compliance with National Standards and asking, if there is no timeframe envisaged, what is the role of cancer standards.

P-03-200 The Glamorganshire Canal

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

write to the petitioners with details of the responses from Rhondda Cynon Taf and Cardiff and Vale Local Health Board;

write to Cardiff Council asking to be kept informed of progress with the Strategic Cycle Network Plan; and

write to Rhondda Cynon Taf Council asking to be kept informed of progress with the SEWTA bid.

P-03-207 Support for the unemployed in Monmouth

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

close the petition and produce a summary closure report.

P-03-211 Provision of Dementia Care Homes and Centres.

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

write to the Minister for Health and Social Services raising the concerns of the WLGA about the impact of budgetary cuts on the most vulnerable, asking how she plans to mitigate this in relation to dementia services and what format these services will take in the future.

P-03-226 Sands

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

close the petition and producing a summary closure report.

P-03-231 Proximity of wind turbines to residential dwellings

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

write to the WLGA to seek their views on the petition and to ask whether local planning authorities do use a larger buffer zone than the minimum set out TAN 8 in coming to planning decisions.

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 raising the petitioners concerns about the minimum threshold for grant eligibility and asking whether Glastir Woodland Creation Grants can be amended to address these concerns.

P-03-237 Welsh countryside

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

close the petition and produce a summary closure report.

P-03-241 Llanelli Star – Save our Sewers

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

write to the petitioners to seek their views on the response from the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing.

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:

await the outcome from the Mersey Dee Alliance AGM in January 2011;

write to the Minister for Business and Budgets asking for clarification of what she means by 'drawing a line under' the strategy.

P-03-263 List Stradey Park

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

write to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing seeking clarity on the position of the call-in;

write to the Council seeking clarity on plans for a memorial park, and highlighting the key concerns of the petitioners.

P-03-265 Include leaving home information and education in the National Curriculum

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

await further details on the Housemate evaluation.

P-03-274 Boiler scrappage scheme

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

close the petition and produce a summary closure report.

P-03-276 Motion for Women

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

write to the petitioners seeking their views on the progress outlined in the Walking and Cycling Action Plan report

P-03-279 Save Welsh Universities

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

await the plenary statement from the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning on Higher Education Strategy

P-03-284 Brynmawr Social Housing

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

close the petition and produce a summary closure report.

P-03-285 Oppose the badger cull

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

await the findings from the public consultation.

P-03-290 Dowlais Engine House

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

close the petition and produce a summary closure report.

P-03-292 Public Toilet Provision

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

write to the petitioner seeking their views on the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government and WLGA correspondence, as well as the short plenary debate on the issue.

P-03-295 Neuro Rehabilitation Services

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

write to the Minister for Health and Social Services;

requesting further information on the expected timescale for completion of the detailed paediatric neurology service specification by Cardiff and Vale LHB;

highlighting the petitioners concerns that funding is not being made fully available for rehabilitation services; and

repeating the request for data on the number of patients who require intensive specialised paediatric neuro-rehabilitation services

P-03-299 South Wales Fire and Rescue Service

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

close the petition and produce a summary closure report.

P-03-301 Equality for the transgender community

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The committee agreed to:

write to the petitioners inviting them to give evidence to the committee, and asking them to clarify in advance whether they have sought funding from the Welsh Government.

The Committee agreed to hold the remainder of the meeting in private session under Standing Order 10.37

Item 5. Discussion of draft report

The committee agreed the draft report on work based learning for vulnerable young people.

Committee Services

November 2010