

Rural Development Sub-Committee

Minutes (RDC(3)-18-08)

Date: 6 November 2008

Time: 9:00 - 11:50am

Venue: Committee Room 3, Senedd

Assembly Members in Attendance

Alun Davies (Chair), Mid and West Wales

Mick Bates, Montgomeryshire

Brynle Williams, North Wales

Leanne Wood, South Wales Central

Committee Service

Claire Morris, Clerk

Meriel Singleton, Deputy Clerk

1: Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Rhodri Glyn Thomas. Leanne Wood attended as substitute.

2: Inquiry into Axis 2 of the Rural Development Plan: Evidence Session

RDC(3)-18-08(p1)

2.1 The Chair welcomed Bernard Llewellyn and Mary James of the NFU Cymru to the meeting and invited them to introduce their written submission. Members questioned the witnesses.

3: Inquiry into Axis 2 of the Rural Development Plan: Evidence Session

RDC(3)-18-08(p2)

3.1 The Chair welcomed Rhian Nowell-Phillips of the Farmers Union Wales to the meeting and invited her to introduce her written submission. Members questioned the witness.

4: Inquiry into Axis 2 of the Rural Development Plan: Evidence Session

RDC(3)-18-08(p3)

4.1 The Chair welcomed John Lloyd Jones and Brian Pawson of the Countryside Council for Wales to the meeting and invited them to introduce their written submission. Members questioned the witnesses.

4.2 Brian Pawson agreed to provide further information on the Cambrian mountains pilot and the work undertaken by Countryside Council for Wales on the concept of tying in the marketing and the environmental advantages of joint co-operation between farmers and farms. He also agreed to provide the Committee with a copy of the work on payment by results that Countryside Council for Wales had completed.

5: Inquiry into Axis 2 of the Rural Development Plan: Evidence Session

RDC(3)-18-08(p5)

5.1 The Chair welcomed Simon Neale and Richard Davies of the Environment Agency Wales to the meeting and invited them to introduce their written submission. Members questioned the witnesses.

5.2 Simon Neale agreed to provide a note on the Environment Agency's report on the opportunities offered by soil carbon and how innovative techniques undertaken by farmers on the ground can improve soil and carbon benefits.

5.3 Simon Neale agreed to provide a note on how the Environment Agency would see any transitional arrangements from current schemes to the proposed Option 3 of the Axis 2 review being achieved.

6: Inquiry into Axis 2 of the Rural Development Plan: Evidence Session

RDC(3)-18-08(p6)

6.1 The Chair welcomed Susan Fowler of the Organic Centre Wales to the meeting and invited her to introduce her written submission. Members questioned the witness.