

Sustainability Committee

Minutes (SC(3)-02-08)

Date: 24 January 2008

Time: 9:00 - 12:30

Venue: Committee Rooms 1 and 2, Senedd, Cardiff Bay

Assembly Members in Attendance

Mick Bates (Chair), Montgomeryshire
Lorraine Barrett, Cardiff South and Penarth
Alun Davies, Mid and West Wales
Alun Ffred Jones, Arfon
Lesley Griffiths, Wrexham
Darren Millar, Clwyd West
Brynle Williams, North Wales
Leanne Wood, South Wales Central

Committee Service

Joanne Clinton, Clerk

Claire Morris, Deputy Clerk

Others in attendance

Ieuan Wyn Jones AM, Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transport
Robin Shaw, Director, Transport Wales
Martin Stevenson, Principal Policy Analyst, Transport
Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing
Claire Bennett, Climate Change and Water Division
Julia Williams, Climate Change and Water Division
Ron Loveland, Head of Energy Wales
Teresa Davies, Planning Division
John Flack, Legal Services Department
Rachel Solomon-Williams, UK Climate Change Bill Team

Item 1: Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Karen Sinclair.

1.2 The Chair reported that he had received a letter from the Petitions Committee referring a petition calling for plastic bags to be banned in Wales to the Sustainability Committee. The Committee agreed to ask Members' Research Service to produce a scoping paper on the petition.

Item 2: Inquiry into carbon reduction in Wales: evidence session on carbon reduction by transport

2.1 The Chair welcomed Ieuan Wyn Jones AM, Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transport, and his officials, Robin Shaw and Martin Stevenson, to the meeting. The Chair invited the Minister to introduce his paper. Members questioned the witnesses..

2.2 The Minister agreed to provide information on the weighting given to carbon impacts within the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance and a comparison of estimates of carbon savings from the proposed actions contained within the Minister's paper against estimates of the projected rises in traffic growth.

2.3 The Minister also agreed to provide written responses to questions on eco-driving, railway infrastructure, demand-responsive transport solutions, and the effects on tourism.

Item 3: Inquiry into carbon reduction in Wales: evidence session on residential carbon reduction (Home Energy Conservation Act)

3.1 The Chair welcomed Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing, and her officials, Claire Bennett and Julia Williams, to the meeting. The Minister was invited to introduce her paper. Members questioned the witnesses.

3.2 The Chair asked Clerks to circulate to Members and the Minister a copy of the letter inviting the Minister to attend the evidence session, for clarification.

Break

Item 4: UK Planning Bill: implications for Wales

4.1 The Chair welcomed Teresa Davies, Ron Loveland and John Flack, who had joined Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing for Item 4. The Minister was invited to introduce her paper. Members questioned the witnesses.

4.2 The Minister agreed to provide regular updates to Members on any substantive amendments to the Planning Bill, as it progressed through the Parliamentary process.

Item 5: UK Climate Change Bill: implications for Wales

5.1 The Chair welcomed Rachel Solomon-Williams from the UK Climate Change Bill Team who had joined Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing and Claire Bennett for Item 5. The Minister was invited to introduce her paper. Members questioned the witnesses.

5.2 Members asked for a note on the evidence that led the Scottish Government to include an 80% target for reductions in carbon emissions by 2050 within the Scottish Climate Change Bill.