

Sustainability Committee

Minutes (SC(3)-06-09)

Date: 19 March 2009

Time: 13:00 - 15:00

Venue: Committee Room 3, Senedd

Assembly Members in Attendance

Mick Bates (Chair), Montgomeryshire
Lorraine Barrett, Cardiff South and Penarth

Alun Davies, Mid and West Wales
Lesley Griffiths, Wrexham
Andrew RT Davies, South Wales Central

Angela Burns, Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
Rhodri Glyn Thomas, Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
Leanne Wood, South Wales Central

Committee Service

Virginia Hawkins, Clerk
Meriel Singleton, Deputy Clerk

Others in Attendance

Brian Gibbons, Minister for Social Justice and Local Government
Caroline Turner, Director of Communities Directorate
David Powell, Head of Local Government Finance Division
Christine Daws, Director General, Finance
Martin Skyes, Chief Executive, Value Wales
Carys Evans, Head of Local Service Board Development
Grant Duncan, Head of Spatial Plan
Bob Hudson, Director of Strategic Division
Chris Riley, Senior Manager, Strategy Director
Steve Milsom, Head of Older People and Long Term Care Division
Eric Thomas, Assistant Director, Environmental Management and Engineering, NHS Estates.

Item 1: Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Brynle Williams and Karen Sinclair. Andrew RT Davies substituted for Brynle Williams. The Chair welcomed Angela Burns to the Sustainability Committee.

Item 2: Report on the implementation of Sustainable Development targets and policies by the Welsh Assembly Government: Social Justice and Local Government Portfolio

2.1 The Chair welcomed Brian Gibbons and his officials to the meeting. Members questioned the witnesses on the implementation of Sustainable Development targets and policies by the Welsh Assembly Government.

2.2 The Minister agreed to provide further information on any environmental objectives within community first projects and areas. The Minister also agreed to provide further evidence on the evaluation and monitoring of actions taken within the Social Justice and Local Government portfolio to reduce Carbon emissions

2.3 The Chair agreed to write to Minister with the questions not reached during the evidence session

Item 3: Report on the implementation of Sustainable Development targets and policies by the Welsh Assembly Government: Finance and Public Service Delivery Portfolio

3.1 The Chair welcomed officials representing Andrew Davies, Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery to the meeting. Members questioned the witnesses. on the implementation of Sustainable Development targets and policies by the Welsh Assembly Government

3.2 Grant Duncan agreed to provide further information on the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Wales Spatial Plan.

3.3 Christine Daws agreed to provide further information on the Welsh Assembly Government dashboard which contained environmental indicators.

3.3 Carys Evans agreed to provide information on the work of the local Service Boards towards Carbon reduction

3.4 The Chair agreed to write to Minister with the questions not reached during the evidence session

Item 4: Report on the implementation of Sustainable Development targets and policies by the Welsh Assembly Government: Health and Social Services Portfolio

4.1 The Chair welcomed officials representing Edwina Hart, Minister for Health and Social Services to the meeting. Members questioned the witnesses on the implementation of Sustainable Development targets and policies by the Welsh Assembly Government

4.2 The Committee asked for further information on the approach taken within the Health Service to commissioning contracts and the all Wales guidance issued for this.

4.3 Eric Thomas agreed to provide further information on the Welsh Health estates travel to work plans

4.4 Bob Hudson agreed to provide further information on new building projects being undertaken

4.5 The Chair agreed to write to Minister with the questions not reached during the evidence session.