

Sustainability Committee

Minutes (SC(3)-07-08)

Date: 10 April 2008

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
Alun Ffred Jones, Arfon
Darren Millar, Clwyd West
Karen Sinclair, Clwyd South
Brynle Williams, North Wales
Leanne Wood, South Wales Central

Committee Service

Virginia Hawkins, Clerk
Joanne Clinton, Deputy Clerk

Others in attendance

Wendy Davies, Director, energywatch Wales
David Walter, Head of Energy Propositions and Pricing, Centrica plc
Phil Biddle, Head of Energy Efficiency, e-on UK
Richard Westoby, Head of Pricing and Forecasting, Scottish and Southern Energy
Ann Loughrey, Head of Corporate Responsibility, Scottish Power
Guy Johnson, Director of Regulation, RWE npower

Item 1: Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Lesley Griffiths.

Item 2: Fuel poverty in Wales

Paper: SC(3)-07-08 (p1)

Paper: SC(3)-07-08 (p1) Annex A

2.1 The Chair welcomed Wendy Davies from energywatch Wales to the meeting and invited her to introduce her written submission. Members questioned the witness.

Item 3: Fuel poverty in Wales

Paper: SC(3)-07-08 (p1) Annexes B - F

3.1 The Chair welcomed to the meeting David Walter from Centrica plc, Phil Biddle from e-on UK, Richard Westoby from Scottish and Southern Energy, Ann Loughrey from Scottish Power, and Guy Johnson from RWE npower, and invited them to introduce their written submissions. Members questioned the witnesses.

The witnesses agreed to provide clarification on exactly what each company is spending on fuel poverty and through which sources.

Anne Loughrey agreed to provide information on benefit take-up in Wales, and confirmation as to whether Welsh customers were less likely to switch energy suppliers, and whether they paid more for energy than customers in other parts of Great Britain.

Phil Biddle agreed to provide details of the e-on UK social tariff and Guy Johnson agreed to provide clarification as to why RWE npower's social tariff was higher than their lowest tariffs.

Item 4: Fuel Poverty in Wales

Paper: SC(3)-07-08 (p2)

Paper: SC(3)-07-08 (p2) Annex A

4.1 The Committee agreed to note a paper from EDF Energy on fuel poverty in Wales.