

Sustainability Committee

Minutes (SC(3)-09-07)

Date: 15 November 2007

Time: 9:30 - 12:30

Venue: Committee Room 3, Senedd, Cardiff Bay

Assembly Members in Attendance

Mick Bates (Chair), Montgomeryshire
Lorraine Barrett, Cardiff South and Penarth
Alun Ffred Jones, Arfon
Lesley Griffiths, Wrexham
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

Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing
Matthew Quinn, Director, Department for Environment, Sustainability and Housing
Georgina Haarhoff, Head of Corporate Strategy Unit, Department for Environment, Sustainability and Housing
Jasper Roberts, Head of Waste and Local Environment Quality Unit
Jocelyn Davies AM, Deputy Minister for Housing
Francois Samuel, Head of Construction Unit, Department for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Item 1: Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Alun Davies AM.

Item 2: Consideration of scoping paper on the transport section of the Committee's inquiry into carbon reduction

2.1 The Chair introduced a scoping paper setting out the proposed scope of the second topic area in its inquiry into carbon reduction - carbon reduction by transport.

2.2 Members discussed and agreed the scoping paper. Members also emphasised the importance of concentrating their scrutiny on areas in which Wales has legislative competence.

Item 3: Consideration and agreement of Rural Development Sub-committee report on the Budget

3.1 The Chair introduced the Rural Development Sub-committee's report on the rural affairs Draft Budget 2008/09.

3.2 Members discussed and agreed the report, subject to removal of recommendation 8.

Item 4: Sustainability Committee scrutiny of the Budget

4.1 The Chair welcomed Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing and her officials to the meeting and invited her to make opening remarks in relation to the sustainability priorities contained within the Draft Budget 2008/09. The Chair invited comments and questions from Members.

4.2 The Minister agreed to provide clarification of the budget lines to be used as match funding for the purposes of accessing convergence funding, together with an explanation of the increase in the budget of the Planning Inspectorate. The Minister also agreed to provide an explanatory note on differences highlighted between the figures contained within the Draft Budget 2008/09 and the figures held by the Minister, along with details of the budget of the Countryside Council for Wales.

Item 5: Inquiry into carbon reduction

5.1 The Chair welcomed Jocelyn Davies AM, Deputy Minister for Housing. The Chair invited comments and questions from Members in relation to the Committee's inquiry into residential carbon reduction in Wales.

5.2 The Committee agreed to write to both the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing and the Deputy Minister of Housing inviting them to respond in writing to the questions outstanding from the evidence session on residential carbon reduction.