

Sustainability Committee

Minutes (SC(3)-22-09)

Date: 26 November 2009

Time: 9:00 – 11:30

Venue: Committee Room 1, Senedd

Assembly Members in Attendance

Mick Bates (Chair), Montgomeryshire
Angela Burns, Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
Lesley Griffiths, Wrexham
Leanne Wood, South Wales Central
Brynle Williams, North Wales

Committee Service

Virginia Hawkins, Clerk
Gemma Bright, Deputy Clerk
Ryan Bishop, Deputy Clerk

Others in Attendance

Jane Davidson, Minister for Sustainability and Housing
Claire Bennett, Head of Climate Change & Water Division, Welsh Assembly Government
Gwyn Lewis, Head of Energy Efficiency & Fuel Poverty, Welsh Assembly Government
Helen Northmore, Head of Energy Saving Trust in Wales
Frances Williamson, Energy Retail Association
Tony Dicicco, Head of Government Relations, Npower
Sian Callaghan, Centrica
David Topping, Director of Commercial Operations, E.ON
Valentine Mulholland, EDF Energy
Richard Westboy, Scottish and Southern

Item 1: Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Lorraine Barrett, Alun Davies, Rhodri Glyn Thomas and Karen Sinclair.

Item 2: Evidence Session on Fuel Poverty

2.1 The Chair welcomed Jane Davidson, Claire Bennet and Gwyn Lewis to the Committee and invited them to make some opening remarks. The Committee questioned the witnesses.

Item 3: Evidence Session on Fuel Poverty

3.1 The Chair welcomed Helen Northmore to the Committee and invited her to make some opening remarks. The Committee questioned the witness.

3.2 Helen Northmore agreed to provide information on if the monitoring work of the Energy Saving Trust is available as public information.

3.3 Helen Northmore agreed to provide the Energy Saving Trust report named 'Power in Numbers' to the Committee.

3.4 Helen Northmore agreed to provide the Energy Saving Trust report named Location Location Location to the Committee.

3.5 Helen Northmore agreed to provide further information about the Scottish delivery mechanisms, the Scottish report on progress and who the delivery of the Energy Assistance Package is contracted to in the 5 Energy Saving Scotland Advice Centres centres.

Item 4: Evidence Session on Fuel Poverty

4.1 The Chair welcomed Frances Williamson, Richard Westboy, Sian Callaghan, David Topping, Valentine Mulholland and Tony Dicicco to the Committee and invited them to make some opening remarks. The Chair noted that Gillian Noble was unable to attend the meeting. The Committee questioned the witnesses.

4.2 David Topping agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the allocated spend by E.ON to tackle Fuel Poverty in

Wales.

4.3 The Chair noted that Gillian Noble was unable to attend the meeting and that she would be written to with a copy of the questions.

4.4 Frances Williamson agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the benefits that households in Wales are missing out on in the form of the report titled "Missing Millions"

4.5 Sian Callaghan agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the implementation and delivery mechanisms of the Stage 4 of the Scottish Energy Assistance Package set up to help maximise incomes, reduce fuel bills and improve the energy efficiency of homes.

4.6 Tony Diccio agreed to provide the Committee with the annual expenditure figures spent in Wales by the energy companies.

4.7 Frances Williamson agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the breakdown of an average energy bill including the annual Ofgem report into the breakdown of consumer bills.

4.8 All of the witnesses agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the projected impact that the Energy Bill will have on the average household bills in terms of how much of the charge made to the consumer will go towards renewable energy.

4.9 All of the witness agreed to provide further information on community energy saving schemes in Wales

Item 5: Consideration of Rural Development Sub-committee draft report on the Future of Dairy Industry

5.1 The Committee agreed the draft report by the Rural Development Sub-committee on the Future of the Dairy Industry