

Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

Minutes (SJR(2)-09-06)

Meeting date: Thursday 8 June 2006

Meeting time: 1.30pm – 4.00pm

Meeting venue: Senedd, National Assembly for Wales

Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Janice Gregory (Chair)	Ogmore
Mick Bates	Montgomeryshire
Edwina Hart (Minister)	Gower
Laura Ann Jones	South Wales East
Sandy Mewies	Delyn
Leanne Wood	South Wales Central

Officials in Attendance

Name	Job title
Emyr Roberts	Director – Social Justice & Regeneration Department
Linda Whittaker	Director of Housing
Brendon Hilbourne	Housing Directorate
Chris Hobday	Housing Directorate
Anne Stephenson	Director of Communities Directorate
Lynne Schofield	Communities Directorate
Supt Carl Close	Police Liaison Officer

Others in Attendance

Name	Representing (if applicable)	Agenda item(s)
Brian Fraser	South Wales Fire and Rescue Service	3

Committee Service

Name	Job title
Roger Chaffey	Committee Clerk
Claire Griffiths	Deputy Committee Clerk

Item 1: Introduction, Apologies, Substitutions, and Declarations of Interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and members of the public.

1.2 Apologies were received from Mark Isherwood and Huw Lewis. There were no substitutions.

1.3 The Chair paid tribute to Roger Chaffey, Committee Clerk, who was retiring on 9 June and welcomed his successor, Virginia Hawkins.

1.4 There were no declarations of interest

1.5 A verbatim record of the meeting is available

Item 2: Minutes of the previous meeting

Paper: SJR(2)-08-06 (min)

The Committee ratified the minutes from the meeting on 17 May 2006.

Item 3: Minister's Report

Paper: SJR(2)-09-06(p.1) Annex 1, 1a, 2

Actions

The Minister agreed to share the report carried out by SMTF specialist sub-group on the workforce shortages in counselling with Committee when published later in the year

The Minister agreed to discuss the injection of additional resources for police talks to schools and whether the funding should be delayed until the Committee's report on prevention is published

The Minister agreed to discuss the success of Operation Tarian with Chief Constables

The Minister agreed to provide regular updates on the restructuring of courts

The Minister agreed to let Committee have sight of a draft of the proposed DFG guidance for comment when available

The Minister agreed to raise the issue of cross border vehicle recognition work and use of mobile telephones to fight crime

Item 4: Social Justice Report 2006

Paper: SJR(2)-09-06(p.2) Annex

The paper was noted

Actions

The Minister agreed to follow up the publication of statistics the Communities First programme in the September meeting

The Minister agreed to look at the effect of climate change in regards to HEES and report back

Item 5: Social Housing Grant

Paper: SJR(2)-09-06(p.3)

The paper was noted

Actions

The Minister agreed to forward copies of the Homebuy bids made by Local Authorities to Committee Members under the Social Housing Grant Scheme

The Minister agreed to share her deliberations with Committee on the Report on Low Cost Home Ownership Scheme and suggested that the report's author give a presentation to Committee

The Minister agreed to include a note in her next written report on the Pontypridd example of self-build homes

The Minister agreed to report back on the progress made with SHGs and affordable housing

Item 6: Strategic Forward Work Programme

Paper: SJR(2)-09-06(p.4) Annex

The Programme was agreed

Item 7: Secondary Legislation

Paper: SJR(2)-09-06(p.5) Annex 1, 2

The paper was noted

Item 8: Overindebtedness

Paper: SJR(2)-09-06(p.6)

The item was deferred and will be rearranged

Item 9: Community Land Trusts

Paper: SJR(2)-09-06(p.7)

The paper was noted

Actions:

The Minister agreed to consider the suggestion of producing literature to increase the public's awareness of Community Land Trust's

Item 10: Police Liaison Officer

Paper: SJR(2)-09-06(p.8) Annex 1, 2

The Police Liaison Officer gave a presentation on the recommendations which emanated from a seminar held in July 2005 titled: Putting Communities First – Community Reassurance in Wales.

Actions:

The Minister agreed to take Gwenda Thomas's Report "Keeping us Safe " forward in discussions about sharing information and the Data Protection Act in relation to the work of CAF/CASS

The Minister agreed to provide an update as part of the next Ministerial report about the work on migrant workers and to annex the draft Voluntary Code of Practice for employers and the Welcome Pack

The Minister agreed to discuss access to facilities with EDT colleagues and include transport issues in the next Social Justice Annual Report. The Minister also agreed to include further information on affordable housing, the environment and mental health

The Secretariat to schedule a further presentation on Neighbourhood Policing