

Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

Minutes (SJR(2)-01-07)

Meeting date: Thursday 18 January 2007

Meeting time: 9.30am – 12.10pm

Meeting venue: National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay

Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Janice Gregory (Chair)	Ogmore
Mick Bates	Montgomeryshire
Edwina Hart (Minister)	Gower
Mark Isherwood	North Wales
Laura Anne Jones	South Wales East
Huw Lewis	Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney
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
Jo Jordan	Director of Community Safety Unit
Anne Stephenson	Director of Communities Directorate
Philip Cook	Housing Division
Karen Eveleigh	Community Safety Unit
Francois Samuel	Housing Division

Paul Webb	Housing Division
Peter Owen	Voluntary Sector Unit

Committee Service

Name	Job title
Virginia Hawkins	Committee Clerk
Claire Griffiths	Deputy Committee Clerk
Joanest Jackson	Legal Adviser

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 Trish Law. There were no declarations of interest.

1.3 A verbatim record of the meeting is available.

Item 2: Minutes of the previous meeting

Paper: SJR(2)-17-06 (min)

The Committee ratified the minutes from the meeting held on 6 December 2006

Item 3: Minister's Report

Paper: SJR(2)-01-07(p.1) Annexes A, 1

Actions

- The Minister agreed to write to Members with an update on some recent issues to her Ministerial Report including the Review of the Police Funding Formula
- The Minister agreed to consider how through support of structural funds and via the review of the Convergence Programme, Post Offices can receive assistance to become community enterprises
- The Minister agreed to contact the Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks on joined-up thinking to assist programme that help to eradicate fuel poverty in Wales
- The Minister agreed to bring the issue of preventative measures as a separate item to Committee when the Substance Misuse Treatment Framework is published
- The Minister agreed to speak with the Police Chiefs about the separate markets for Cannabis and Heroin UK wide, in light of the report on substance misuse in Swansea
- The Minister agreed to look at the evaluation of Regeneration Programmes in England and

report back to Committee

- The Secretariat to schedule a presentation from the Communication Workers' Union at the Committee meeting on 15 February

Item 4: Draft Housing Revenue Account Subsidy and Item 8 Determinations for 2007/08

Paper: SJR(2)-01-07(p.2) Annex

The Determination was agreed

Item 5: SJR Policy Review on Substance Misuse

Paper: SJR(2)-01-07(p.3) Annex

The paper was noted. It was agreed that the Committee will recommend that the drinks industry liaises with the National Assembly on alcohol education and prevention in its Legacy paper

Actions

- The Minister agreed to check if any research had been undertaken in Scotland and Ireland on the effects of alcohol intake after the introduction of smoking bans
- The Minister agreed to consider the evaluation of the Substance Misuse National Helpline and how it could be further marketed
- The Minister agreed to provide Committee with details of local authority spend on substance misuse prevention

Item 6: Secondary Legislation

Paper: SJR(2)-01-07(p.4) Annex 1, 2

The paper was noted

Item 7: Home Energy Conservation Act

Paper: SJR(2)-01-07(p.5)

The paper was noted

Actions

- The Minister agreed to provide information about the 4 local authorities who had not provided energy conservation reports and would also raise this issue when she next meets with the Leader of the WLGA. She also agreed to provide details of local authorities who had made the most progress.
- The Minister agreed to include a section on the legal requirements and guidance of HECA in her next written report
- The Committee to engage in the consultation on local service agreements

Item 8: Draft Strategic Action Plan – Voluntary Sector
Paper: SJR(2)-01-06(p.6) Annex

The paper was noted. Members noted that events were being arranged for Members to contribute to the consultation during late February/early March and that the Minister would write with details.

Item 9: Equality of Opportunity
Paper: SJR(2)-01-07(p.7)

The paper was noted. It was agreed that that the Committee will include having 6-monthly updates on this issue in its Legacy paper.

Item 10: Policy Review: Youth Homelessness
Paper: SJR(2)-01-06(p.8) Annex

The Report was agreed in principle with a few minor textual changes. Members requested additional recommendations to cover:

- The good practice employed by the Swansea Bays Partnership
- The term "intentionally homeless"
- Provision of specialist health services

It was also noted that 2 Members did not agree with Recommendation 14 which deals with "Right to Buy" but agreed to retain the Recommendation but a note would be added to the text to reflect this